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THE FRONT PAGE

Canadians or Communists?

MR. JOE LEVITT is Toronto secretary of the National Federation of Labor Youth, and is by his own statement a Communist. He is also a former member of the Governor-General's Foot Guards and a holder of the Military Medal, and was wounded at the Falaise Gap. In a very ably written letter to the Toronto *Star* he takes exception to the refusal of the Board of Education to allow one of his clubs to use school property for its meetings, and says that the argument advanced in support of that refusal, when he asked for explanations, was in substance that since he was a Communist he was a traitor.

Now we are not prepared to say that Mr. Levitt is a traitor. We are not even prepared to say that his club should not be allowed to meet in school property. We prefer to express our feelings about Mr. Levitt and his clubs in the very carefully considered language which has been used in connection with the employment of Communists in government service in Great Britain: "membership of, and other forms of continuing association with, the Communist party may involve the acceptance by the individual of a loyalty which in certain circumstances can be inimical to the state".

Mr. Levitt was, he tells us, a Communist when he joined the army. He does not give the date of that event, but we assume that it must have been subsequent to June 22, 1941, because as a Communist he could not possibly have joined the army prior to that date with any honest intention of assisting the Canadian military effort, which in those days was denounced by all Communists as being directed against an ally of Russia. "In certain circumstances", we therefore assume, Mr. Levitt's loyalty to Canada might again be qualified; there was no clash between the two loyalties so long as the Canadian troops were fighting the same enemy as Russia was fighting, but in other circumstances his acceptance of this other loyalty might be highly inimical to the security of the present parliamentary political structure of Canada. In other words, we do not regard Mr. Levitt's service in the G.G.F.G., nor his Military Medal, nor even his wounds, as a guarantee that he will always be a loyal supporter of the Canadian constitution, or will confine his attempts to change it to the constitutional methods which it duly provides.

Mr. Levitt, we imagine, honestly believes that he is loyal, and always has been and always will be loyal, "to Canada". He thinks that the interests of Canada would be best served by the abolition of the parliamentary system, and the substitution of the dictatorship of the proletariat, which he regards as being, in the present circumstances, the best attainable form of government. He knows that the Canadian people cannot be induced to effect that change by majority vote, and he is so convinced of its desirability, not to say its necessity and its inevitability, that he is prepared to bring it about by any method whatever that shows reasonable promise of success. He sees nothing wrong with the methods which have been employed to the same end in Yugoslavia, in Bulgaria, in Czechoslovakia; they have succeeded, they are therefore right.

And this, we feel very strongly, is a loyalty which "in certain circumstances" can be inimical to the state.

Get Tough with Russia

TWO groups of people are saying "Let's get tough with Russia". One group is saying "Let's hit them first; we have the atom bomb and they haven't got it yet; we are mad to wait until they have it." The other group is saying "We must avoid anything that looks like appeasement; the trouble before the last war was that Hitler never knew for certain that Britain and France, let alone U.S.A., really would go to war, so he went on and on

(Continued on Page Five)

—Photo by Heinz

In his first year as director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Jacques Singer has made music headlines. Concerts this season have increased from 12 to 58 with estimated total attendance of over 100,000.

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Spring Brings New Challenge to Garden-Lovers

A close-cropped lawn, utterly uncluttered by tiresome little flower-beds, is a valuable asset anywhere.

Stone walls link varied garden-levels with interesting results.

Full of charm is this rose garden with its bubbling fountain and array of bloom.

An oblong bed on an axis with the arbor centres the long perennial-bordered lawn.

Naturalistic effects usually are desirable in handling wooded areas in the home grounds.

Now Is the Time To Be Planning and Choosing

By Collier Stevenson

NOW, with Easter past, there is a real spirit of spring in the air, as the sun mounts higher in the sky each new lengthening day. Already garden enthusiasts are consulting planting charts and poring over this year's new seed and nursery catalogues with the thought of making innovations in their gardens.

If it is to achieve vibrant, season-long beauty, a garden must be full of variety in its planting so that every portion has a definite appeal. That, most gardeners will agree, at once suggests the importance of color—and what can dispense color more generously than flowers in a garden? True enough, delightfully colorful effects often can be secured through the free use and apt combination of evergreen shrubs and trees of varied foliage ranging from silver, gold, blue, variegated white, an infinite number of greens to deep reds and purples. But, for that vital spark of color, there also should be flowers in abundance.

Nature, fortunately, has been lavish in her provision of floral color, so that flowering plants suitable for today's garden planting mount from tiny spring-blooming rock plants and bulbs to blossoming shrubs, vines and tall trees.

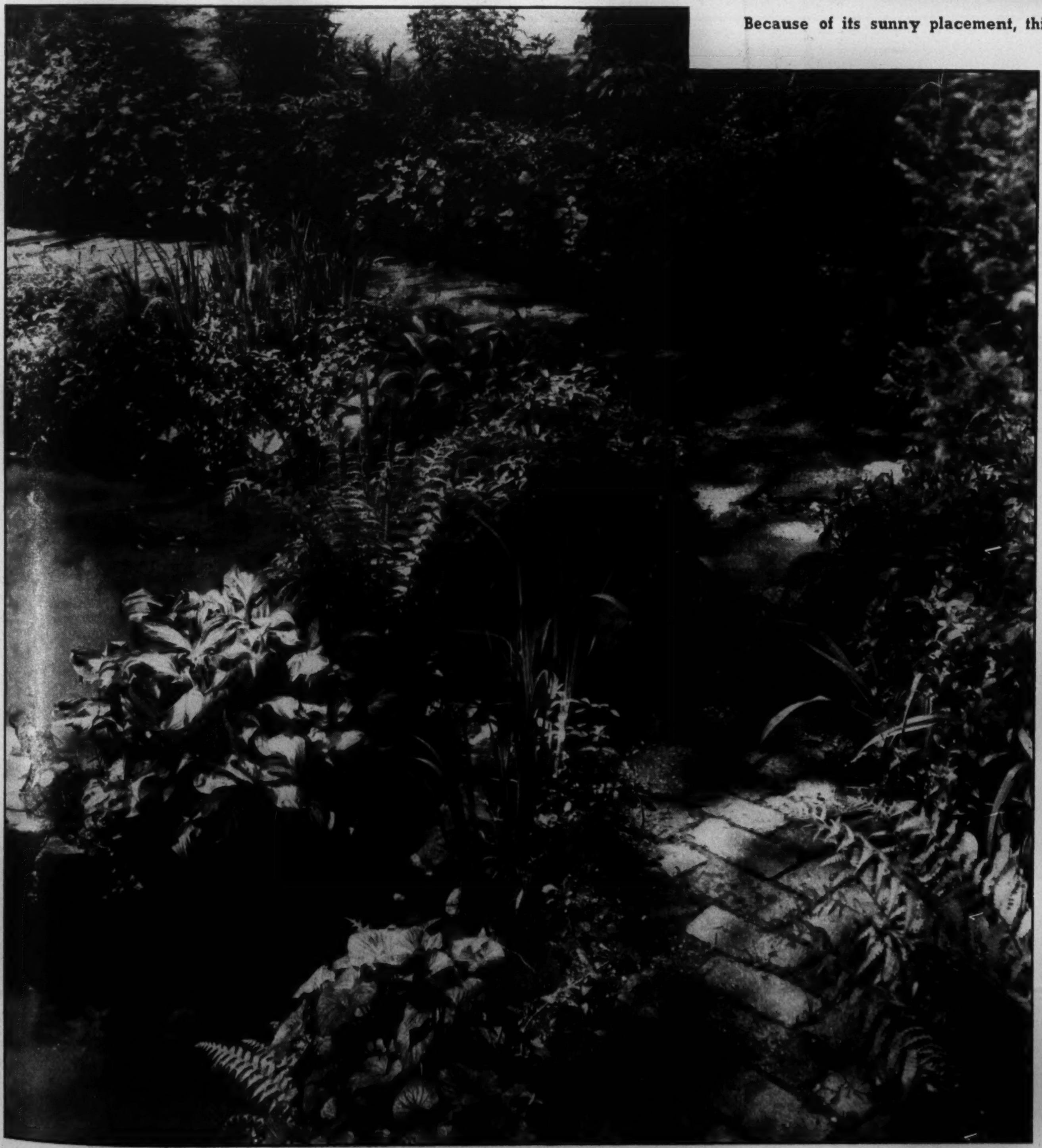
FIRST of all the shrubs to bloom —and popular wherever it can be grown—is the forsythia, swinging its bell flowers of gold in the breeze before the first leaf appears. That surely is one of the flowering shrubs that should have an honored place in a garden. And what would a garden in the spring be without the fragrant beauty of lilacs in all the characteristic range of white, lavender, mauve, purple deepening to red? That is another shrub which no gardener should omit, especially as either low-growing or tall-growing types can be selected according to the space open for them. Mock-orange, flowering almond, snowball, tamarix, deutzia, Japonica, stephanandra and flowering quince are other shrubs that bloom in spring and early summer.

The mint shrub, an import from China, and the althea top the list for fall blooming, but for between seasons there are such established favorites as weigelia, spirea, butterfly bush and sea buckthorn.

VINES and climbers—had you thought of them? — can do miracles in bringing color to a garden. Of course, there are the familiar climbing roses in their white, orange, salmon, gold, rose, pink, red and rich crimson in endless variations. Then, of vines, there are the honeysuckles, the clematis, wistaria, bittersweet and the gleaming white silverlace and the good old orange trumpet vines.

Annuals and perennial plants with trees of varied size to crown a garden with flowers—they, too, have interesting offerings to contribute to home gardens whether large or small. But that is a story which must be told a little later.

Because of its sunny placement, this placid pool later in the season will display fragrant water lilies.



This and the illustration at left picture a brookside garden path artistically contrived in a woodland plot.

Sculptured figures play an important rôle in formal gardens.

Photos: Richard Averill Smith

Spaciousness is to the fore here; even to an open type fence.

Dear Mr. Editor

Questions

RE PROFESSOR HIGGINS' recent articles (S.N., Feb. 14 and 28), why should we subsidize housing, rather than food? Is there any evidence that housing shortages are more damaging in their effect on our society than is malnutrition?

How would we arrive at the standard of housing by public subsidy? There are two factors in the decision. Professor Higgins explains that the state must be prepared to see that everyone can obtain a house for not more than a certain percentage of his income. But where are the plans and specifications? Without that information it is totally impossible even to make a guess as to what the cost of providing a minimum standard of housing for every family would be.

Who would build these houses? To divert labor from its present occupations to more building of housing would require some effort. Would it be exerted by increasing the wages in the building trades compared with the wages in other trades, by conscription, or how?

Would Professor Higgins feel that the only persons entitled to an improvement in their housing conditions, by means of taxation of the public at large, are those who do not at present happen to occupy houses? What about the many tens of thousands of people who are now occupying housing accommodation which is, unfortunately, not as good as any of us would like to see? Are they to be provided with improved housing at public cost, or are they simply to be forgotten?

In the last century the Canadian people have built themselves probably 3,000,000 houses, without government subsidies. Why is it now necessary to assume that the provision of housing for the people is a normal activity of the state?

Montreal, Que. P. C. ARMSTRONG

Alberta's Premier

WE ENJOYED your article on Premier Manning of Alberta (S.N., Feb. 28). It would be quite satisfying to have a leader who was as sincere as Mr. Spohn depicted. But Mr. Manning's "old-time religion," which he so blatantly advocates, does not carry either tolerance, sportsmanship, or even good manners into his dealings with his political opponents or critics, such as required by a modern democracy. The Social Credit government, with its religious fanaticism of absolute righteousness, is much too prone to consider any deviation from its way of thinking to be a mark of criminal intent. To me it smacks of totalitarianism.

Calgary, Alberta. MARGARET THOMPSON

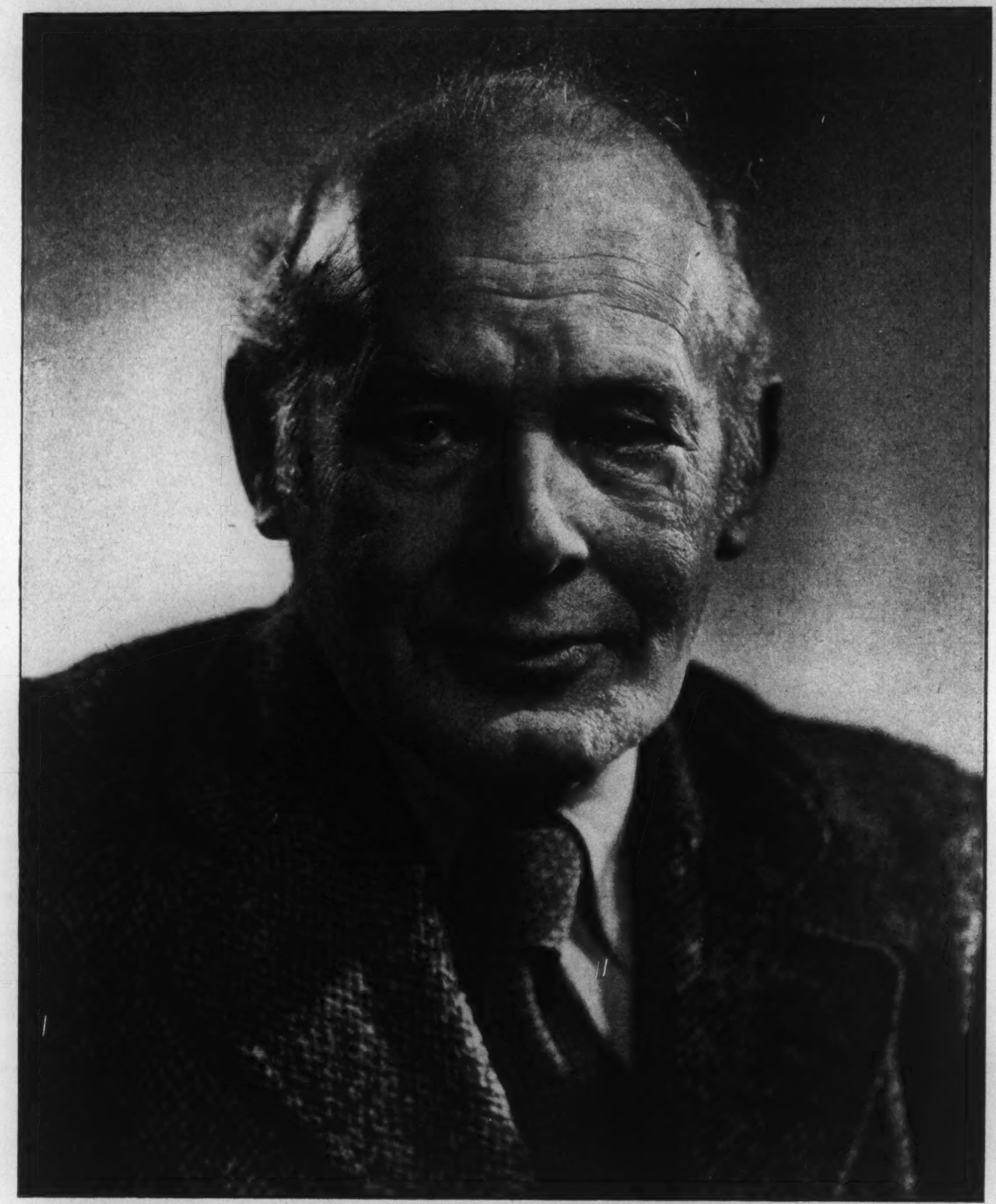


Photo by Karsh

Commander Stephen King-Hall, journalist, playwright and politician, has made his mark as one of the most dynamic men of ideas on the contemporary British scene. He visited Canada last month to help found the Hansard Society, having already launched sister-societies in Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. An article by him appears on page 14.

Canadian Drama

IT WRINGS my heart that Mr. John Coulter should be forced to send his new play to Dublin, of all places (S.N., March 20). Maybe Mr. Coulter lives in the wrong part of Canada. In Alberta, two of us (Gwen Pharis and myself) write three act plays. We have both been troubled by over-eager producers, in such a hurry to stage our efforts, that the scripts were ripped untimely from our typewriters.

Or it may be, that although a resident of Canada, Mr. Coulter has not yet moved here in mind and spirit. The script of "Deirdre" is no more a Canadian work than "Stampede" would have been Chinese, had Gwen Pharis been living in Shanghai when she wrote it.

I do not like national labels on works of art. But surely if we are talking of *Canadian* plays, we mean plays that have their very roots in Canadian life and thinking; dramas that belong to us as surely as "Two Solitudes" or "Who Has Seen the Wind"; plays that take their pattern from our people as surely as A. Y. Jackson takes his patterns from our landscape. Mr. Coulter should tell us that his new play is ours in its fibres as well as in the postmark on the parcel. Otherwise we must feel that the green light from Dublin is O.K. by us.

Edmonton, Alberta. ELSIE PARK GOWAN

QUESTIONS, CHIEFLY RHETORICAL

WHEN our battle-scarred world
Wants its war-banners furled
And eschews inter-racial hostility,
And its citizens yearn
For a speedy return
To an era of peace and tranquillity,
Should we mildly stand by
With a tear in our eye
And an air of defenceless docility
While a militant race
Thumbs its nose in our face
And declares that we've lost our virility?
Should we give up our plan
For re-modelling Man,
So convinced of its utter futility
That (with memory short)
We give moral support
To their program of planned instability?

J. E. P.

Green Light

I SUGGESTED (S.N., March 20) that Canadian plays could be found if, as inducement, $5,000 were offered, with all rights reserved to the author. But you omitted a paragraph to the effect that the author would agree to turn back to the fund a slice of all royalties and other takings as from sale to films or radio, and that if even one winning play made a hit as show business this return could quickly pay back the $5,000 and go on to establish the fund for years. Without that paragraph my suggestion doesn't make practical sense.

Toronto, Ont. JOHN COULTER

Good Neighbor?

TO ONE who has visited both Capri and the Channel Islands, Mona Gould's delightful article on Siamese cats (S.N., March 20) comes as a bit of a shock. As Compton Mackenzie truly says, Jethou is merely a green hump "beside such a neighbor as Guernsey." And how far removed are both of them from the neighborhood of Capri in the Mediterranean!

Whitby, Ont. CONSTANCE KERR SISSONS

Final Vagary

MAJOR STRANGE has had his experience with falling prices for a new crop (S.N., March 6). From the book "With the West in Her Eyes," by Kathleen Strange, page 90, I quote: "The first season the price for wheat was extraordinarily high. That is, at the beginning of the season. Bob Sutfin, for instance, by threshing his grain first, and hauling it at once to town, sold it at the peak of the price, actually realizing in the neighborhood of $3 a bushel for it, a dollar more than we received for ours when we sold it a few weeks later. Such were the vagaries of ordinary grain farming in the early postwar years. . ."

The vagaries of wheat farming are many and the final vagary was its reception on the open market. It was an unstable outmoded system, very unfair to producers. Let us hope it may never return.

Vancouver, B.C. F. WHITE

Reading Speeches

DON'T you think that you were a bit hard on the members of parliament (S.N., March 13)? Yes, we all know that most of them can't speak in public, but must read or stumble along with a sheaf of notes as a crutch. That, however, surely keeps them in tune with our times, because a shockingly small percentage of our people do any better.

I agree that "if he finds that he can't deliver a decent speech without a manuscript, he should immediately start learning how." But please don't reserve your very wise admonition for our poor wretched members of parliament and fail to offer it to the clergy, the legal fraternity, the commentators, and the editors.

Moncton, N.B. A. C. ROSS

• •

The Front Page Picture

LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI once named Jacques Singer as "one of the greatest conductorial talents that I know." Vancouverites have good reason to agree with that praise. The 35 year-old U.S. born musician is completing his first full season as conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and has made the west coast's greatest musical news. Here are the impressive statistics for the V.S.O.'s 1947-48 season: 12 subscription concerts, 25 Pops, 6 University, 5 children's, 5 special and 5 out-of-town concerts. The subscription concerts had an average attendance of 3,000, the Pops 1800.

Passing Show

THERE is no betting on the elections in the authoritarian states. But we understand that they have very good pools on who will get assassinated next.

•

The United States has developed a radioactive cloud. Those on whom it is used will have no time to look for the silver lining.

•

Canada has been telling the great powers to "get off the fence" on the Palestine question. Why not tell the United States to stop jumping over it?

•

The cost of living inquiry has found out what Johnny is doing but it hasn't told him to stop.

•

Italian-Americans can send free cables to Italy urging their relatives to vote anti-Communist and thus save the country from (Russian) intervention.

•

Canadian Hungarians are celebrating the centenary of the liberation of Hungary. Hungarian Hungarians aren't.

•

Moscow Version

For every brother and every sist-
-er that's born into this world contrary
Is either a noble Communist
Or else a bloated reactionary.

•

The Communists in Russia believe that we in the democratic countries live under an insufferable tyranny; they are told so and they have no way of learning better. The Communists know that we do not so live, but continue to pretend that we do. Which are the more guilty?

•

Question: If there were still a Bourbon government in France, would Mr. Duplessis and the St. Jean Baptiste Society have chosen the design they did for the flag of Quebec?

•

The most notable hat in the Broadway Easter Parade was one with a birdcage on it containing a stuffed bird. A live bird might have said "Cheap! Cheap!"

•

Members of the Quebec legislature have been singing or humming tunes while other members spoke. The soothing effect seems to have been negligible.

•

Among the Todas of Southern India everybody prostrates himself before the milkman, who is practically a god. And Canadians do the same thing if he has any butter.

•

Mr. Pouliot wants Canada to annex Jamaica, though as he thinks Canada is one of the worst governed countries in the world it is hard to see how he can suppose Jamaica wants to be annexed.

•

Lucy says the people you see stumbling along in the ditches are the fellow-travellers who have jumped off the train.

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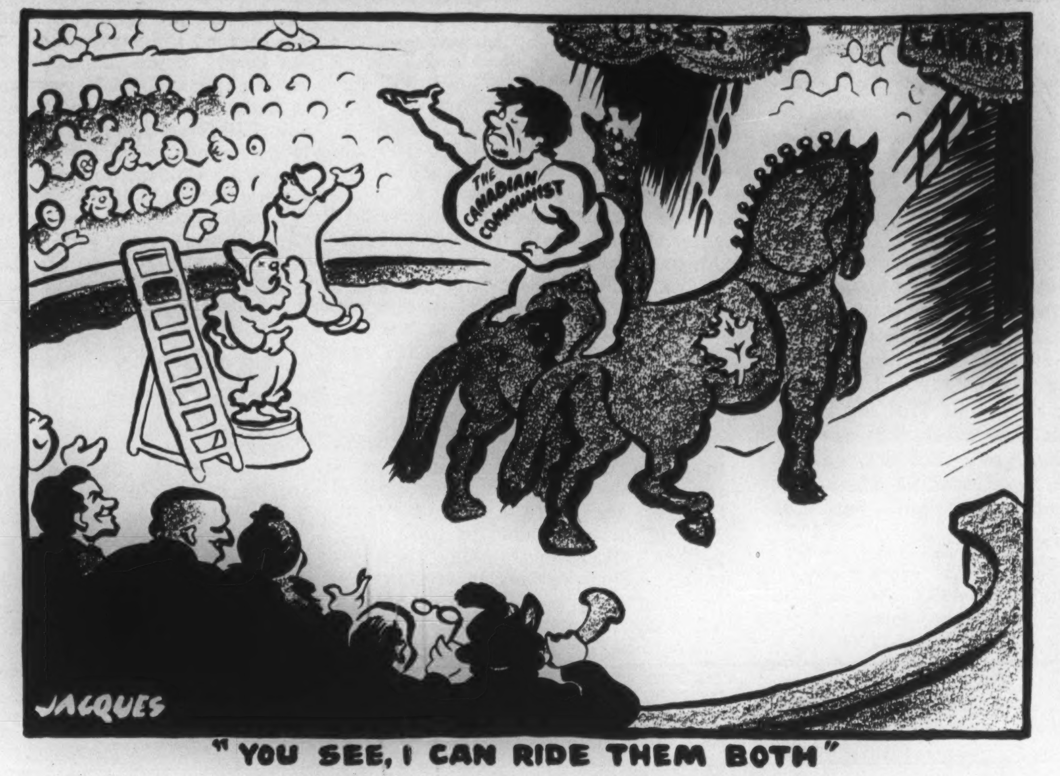

"YOU SEE, I CAN RIDE THEM BOTH"

The Front Page

(Continued from Page One)

until he could not turn back; this time we must draw a firm line; we must make it absolutely clear to Russia that one more step like Czechoslovakia means war."

We have a lot of sympathy with both groups; they want to keep our freedoms at the least cost or the least risk to ourselves. But when we think seriously about their suggestions we run into difficulties.

The people who want to kill Russia before she kills us never tell us what to do with the body. How would we, or to be more precise, how would Washington run Russia? The attempts of the United States, helped by Britain and France, to run Germany have not been successful. Every day we hear tales of young Americans who are in the army of occupation either being personally demoralized or else being persuaded that Germany is being very ill-treated. Experienced, disciplined soldiers who saw something of German brutality have long since gone home—and a pretty fuss there would have been in Congress if they had been kept overseas.

The democracies, and especially the U.S.A., are simply unable to play the conquering hero, to impose a way of life on a conquered people. The Russians, like many peasant or near-peasant peoples, have a passionate love of their land; they hate, bitterly and forever, any invader who trespasses on it. If we drop atom bombs on them, and then try to run their country, we shall gain their undying hatred and eventually (perhaps when atom bombs are a good deal easier to make) they will get back their independence. What then? "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

The draw-a-firm-line group, who have been particularly outspoken since Czechoslovakia, are much better at saying a line should be drawn than at drawing it. International patterns are not made up of black-and-white lines; they are made up of blurs of different shades of grey.

No international picture could show this more clearly than the Italian elections on the 18th of this month. It seems possible. even likely, that a majority of Italians will vote communist. Should we now warn the world that, if this happens, we shall immediately drop an atom bomb on Moscow—or Rome?

In spite of all the war talk that is going around, war is not inevitable. The present rulers of Russia are not immortal. From time to time there are glimmers of light from behind the iron curtain. Only last week a Pole, speaking at Geneva, argued with some pride that it was easier for an American newspaper correspondent to get into Poland than for a Polish correspondent to get into the United States; and a writer in the London *Economist* claims that there is now more freedom of political discussion in Russia than ever before under the present regime. The one way to be really sure of having a war is to start it ourselves.

Freedom of the Press

IT comes as something of a shock to learn that freedom of the press—freedom to print anything that is not libel and does not offend against special regulations such as wartime censorship—is seriously challenged nowadays, not only by Communists and other totalitarians but by people who have the principles of freedom at heart. The trouble comes from a lack of responsibility, a lack of self-control, on the part of editors and publishers. Papers set out to make the greatest possible profits, or to get the greatest possible circulation and they produce "all the news that's fit to print" and then a great deal of stuff that isn't.

An example of irresponsibility has just come to our desk. An American paper publishes a news story under the heading "Canada's Press Sees Gains in Union with U.S." and quotes, out of their context, two sentences from SATURDAY NIGHT in support of this view. Actually, as our readers will recall, we were strongly opposing union with U.S.A. However, the appearance of this distortion does not surprise us at all; it was in the Chicago *Tribune*.

In an article on page 6 Mr. G. V. Ferguson. (who is one of Canada's best editors and who has been talking over the problems of press freedom in a sub-committee of the United Nations) claims that Canadian papers are better than they used to be, are better than papers in most other countries, but still leave a good deal to be desired. We agree with him on all three points. We also agree that government supervision and control is likely to do a great deal more harm than good, at least as long as most of our papers continue to take their responsibilities seriously. Freedom of the press is up to them—and we include ourselves.

French Stations

TWO weeks ago we expressed our sympathy with Abbé Lionel Groulx for his protest in *Le Devoir* against what he assumed to be the decision of the C.B.C. not to recommend the licensing of a French-language station in the western provinces. Since that time it has been announced that the C.B.C. *has* recommended the licensing of such a station. and we have no doubt that the good Abbé has made the *amende honorable* in *Le Devoir*, a periodical which we do not regularly see. We are glad to note that the Montreal *Gazette* shares the view already expressed by the Abbé and by SATURDAY NIGHT, that in a bilingual country such as Canada it is not possible to withhold a broadcasting licence for the sole reason that the applicant proposes to use French.

Duplessis' Private Bar?

A CURIOUS concept of the nature of the Bar Association of Quebec Province, or at least one that will seem curious to lawyers in other provinces, was revealed in the Quebec legislature last week. Mr. Fernand Choquette, a Liberal, was criticizing some expenditures of Mr. Antonio Talbot, Minister of Roads in the Duplessis cabinet. Mr. Talbot said that he had defeated Mr. Choquette for batonnier of the provincial Bar Association. Mr. Choquette said he had never been a candidate for that office. Mr. Duplessis then said, as reported by the Canadian Press:

"The Montmagny member (Mr. Choquette), batonnier of Quebec (district), took steps to become batonnier of the province, and he voted for Bracken's candidate over the minister (Mr. Talbot)."

Being reminded that elections for batonnier are by secret ballot, Mr. Duplessis explained that he had been sitting next to Mr. Choquette, and had seen his ballot paper, and it was a vote "for John Hackett, the Bracken candidate".

We find it curious (1) that the premier of a province should look over a secret ballot being prepared by a fellow lawyer, (2) that having looked over it he should make its contents public in the legislature, (3) that he should do so with no sign of regarding it as a dishonorable action, (4) that he should do so with no apparent expectation that his colleagues and the Quebec electorate would regard it as a dishonorable action, and (5) that he should regard it as reprehensible for Mr. Choquette to vote for Mr. Hackett because the latter was "the Bracken candidate".

We even find it curious that there should be such a thing as a Bracken candidate for the office of batonnier of the Bar Association of the Province of Quebec. Is there such a thing as a King (or St. Laurent) candidate? Is there a Coldwell candidate? Is there a Duplessis candidate? (Mr. Duplessis' party does not function at Ottawa.) Do the Bar Associations of the other provinces elect their official heads on strict party lines?

And one more question occurs to us. Did the real gravamen of Mr. Duplessis' charge lie, not in Mr. Hackett's being a Progressive Conservative, but in his being an English-speaking Roman Catholic running against a French Canadian? Is it, in the view of the Union Nationale party, wrong for a French Canadian to vote for an English-speaking Canadian, even for the non-political post of batonnier of the province?

The Great Rehearsal

THERE is no more dramatic event in the history of free peoples than the conversion of the ramshackle alliance of the thirteen American colonies of 1776 into the strong and durable Republic of the United States of America by the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and the subsequent ratification of its Constitution by the individual States. The story of that event has not been told in popular language, and as a separate chronicle, until now, when the accomplished pen of Carl Van Doren (editor of Franklin's letters and autobiographical writings) has produced "The Great Rehearsal" (Macmillan, $4.50), a work whose title shows how clearly the author sees the importance of this union of thirteen nations as a precursor of and precedent for the much greater union of nations which the world now requires.

The 1776 Constitution had quite obviously failed to work, and with the British to the north and the Spaniards to the south and west there was the gravest doubt whether so weak a confederacy could maintain itself. But for the widespread belief that a closer and more centralized union was necessary to the security of American independence, the mutual concessions between South and North, slave-owners and slavery-haters, planters and traders, capitalists and proletarians, could never have been effected. Almost everybody disliked something in the new Constitution, but almost everybody felt that a new Constitution there must be.

It was the pressure of possible enemies that imposed union on the thirteen States. It is a different pressure under which we labor now to effect a wider union — the pressure of the knowledge that further strife between great nations may well mean the end of civilization. If we could only realize it, that is a greater danger than the United States stood in from Britain and Spain in 1787. Can we realize it as the Americans of that day realized their lesser peril?

The Hansard Society

SOME four years ago this journal took an active part in the formation of a society known as the Canadian Friends of Hansard, the chief purpose of which was to promote a wider reading by Canadians of the daily record of the utterances of their representatives in the House of Commons. This society, though its membership never became very large, was able to promote a great deal of publicity to acquaint Canadians with the fact—still not very widely known—that a verbatim report of these utterances is obtainable from the King's Printer for $3 per session, and that in spots it is an extremely interesting and enlightening record.

Following the example of its prototype in Great Britain, and partly as a result of a visit by the founder of the British society, Commander Stephen King-Hall, the Canadian organization is now in process of changing its character and greatly enlarging its objectives. The Hansard Society of Canada (Société Hansard du Canada) aims to promote not merely the study of the current proceedings of the House of Commons, but a fuller and better understanding of the whole parliamentary system of government, which is the basis of liberty and of popular government as understood by the peoples of the Western democracies. It will furnish Canadian material for the quarterly review. *Parliamentary Affairs*, which is published by the British society and is concerned with the methods and problems of the parliamentary system wherever it is practiced — including all the nations of the Commonwealth along with France, the United States, the Scandinavian countries and others.

SATURDAY NIGHT believes that the democratic peoples of the present day take the parliamentary system far too much for granted, and have little realization of the essential role which it plays in the maintenance of the rights of the citizen. If it is not understood it will not be defended; and if it is not defended it can easily be overthrown, and liberty with it.

An article on this subject, by Commander King-Hall, appears on page 14 of this issue.

Art and Experts

ON FURTHER investigation into the matter of the Montreal Art Association and its shows and their juries, we find that the Association has been using the term "art critic" in a different sense from that which we had assumed. While abolishing the old jury of painters, for the reasons quoted in our recent article, it has replaced them with two juries of three persons each, but none of these persons are "art critics" in the sense of making a living by writing about art. They are rather what we should be inclined to term "art experts." Mr. McCurrey, director of the National Gallery at Ottawa, and Mr. Robert Tyler Davis, the new director of the Montreal Art Gallery, are members of both juries, and have associated with themselves a specialist on modern art for the non-representational class and a specialist on nineteenth-century art for the representational class.

We doubt whether the policy will be permanent, and we think it was probably adopted to put an end to a habit of over-generous tolerance which has been making the Association's spring show much too big and inclusive. The present show is very small, but of excellent quality, and if the "painter juries" ever return to their functions they will have to be much more discriminating than they were. There is however an interesting aspect to the situation, in that it lines up the Montreal Art Association definitely on one side of a struggle which has been going on, with a lot of bad feeling resulting, between the National Gallery and the Royal Canadian Academy for the official "control" of Canadian art. We are still disinclined to accept Mr. Davis's view about the incapacity of painters to appreciate other styles of work than their own, and we should not like to see too absolute a control of the processes of contemporary art getting into the hands of the "experts," useful as they are for telling us what value to place on the works of past generations.

AN AMBITION QUASHED

I HAVE known Prague (in the big Encyclopaedia
Also in the Geographic Guide;)
Followed its description too in various other *media*
Such as Tourist Companies provide;
Had resolved to see it and to savour its romance,
But for War, and other things, I never had a chance.

Now it seems that Other Folk had similar ambitions,
But were much more resolute than me;
Bought a bunch of tommy-guns with suitable munitions
And walked in its glories for to see;
Now are wallowing cheerful in its fine romantic glow.
—But for some strange reason now I do not care to go.

J. E. M.

Have We Got, Can We Keep, Freedom of the Press?

By G. V. FERGUSON

At the World Conference on Freedom of the Press in Geneva this month our representatives will find men from many other countries who believe, from their own experience, that freedom of the press as we want it is impossible and that much more government control is needed to combat the reaction and irresponsibility of capitalist owners of the press.

Mr. Ferguson, who is editor of The Montreal Daily Star and who has been a member of the U.N. Sub-Commission on Freedom of the Press, believes that Canadian newspapers are better than most, that government interference is likely to do more harm than good, and that what is needed is more self-criticism. He welcomes the Canadian Managing Editors' Conference which held its second meeting last month; but final responsibility lies with owners, not editors.

THE Canadian delegates to the World Conference on Freedom of Information which opened at Geneva on March 22 has entered a world largely unfamiliar to them. Here, on this secure and blessed continent, we have remained shielded from many of the storms, both physical and spiritual, that have been blowing elsewhere; and here we cherish in its pristine form a conception of press freedom which originated in the 17th and 18th centuries and has suffered no change since its final establishment.

At Geneva our delegates meet the representatives of many lands some of whom hate this concept of freedom, others who have never known it and want it, and still others who, having enjoyed its privileges are now chiefly concerned with the abuses which have sprung up over the years. These seek modification and reform.

This should provide a stimulating time for our delegation which will be composed largely—if the instructions of the U.N. General Assembly have been adequately carried out—of working representatives of what is now known in the dreadful jargon of our age as "the media of mass communication." In four and five letter words this spells out press, radio and film.

Our concept of press freedom is a simple one. It is based on the belief that our society and government can retain health only when there is complete freedom to print, publish and utter, and to do these things without previous licence and censorship and subject only to minor restraints which are covered by the laws relating to libel, obscenity and the like. The implication of this theory is that the existence of the right carries with it practical means for its exercise. That is to say that, without too much trouble or expense, anyone, or virtually anyone, can have access to paper, type, ink and a printing press; and that press freedom is exercised under conditions of competition in which every conflicting voice of importance can be fully or at least adequately heard.

Reformers' Contention

The reformers (who exist in considerable numbers almost everywhere but on this continent) claim that these essential conditions no longer exist. They insist that the modern tendency to concentration, monopoly and quasi-monopoly has asserted itself with strangling strength in the field of mass communication, that it now takes so much capital to launch a daily newspaper that few can attempt it, and still fewer can fight successfully the strongly-entrenched media already in the field.

They go on to say that these organs are almost always owned by capitalists whose thinking is strongly of the Right and that the old established principle of press freedom is now working out in a fashion so partial and imperfect as to create an urgent need for reform, and indeed for legislative restriction upon the untrammeled occupation of capitalists of so important a field.

Let us look for a moment at some of the facts that tend to substantiate this criticism on the surface at least. An outstanding example is the city of Toronto. Not so many years ago there flourished in that city, when it was much smaller than it is today, the *Globe*, the *Mail*, the *Star*, the *Telegram*, the *News* and the *World*. These six have now shrunk to three and there are recurrent rumors that, in due course, the number will shrink to two. Or consider another fact—the creation of newspaper chains. Of these there are in Canada three. Two of them account for nine newspapers (Southam's, six; Sifton's three). They operate in eight cities. In Hamilton, the Southam Chain has a local monopoly. In Regina and Saskatoon the Siftons have similar monopolies. In Winnipeg they compete against each other. In many cities the newspapers are supplemented by newspaper-owned radio stations.

Theoretically such a situation creates dangers. The sources from which news and opinion emanate are diminishing in number and there is nothing to prevent the process enlarging itself. There is nothing to prevent newspapers changing hands. They are marketable commodities like cheese, butter and eggs and can pass as freely from hand to hand. There is nothing, theoretically, to prevent every newspaper in the country becoming ultimately the property of one man or of a single group.

But this is theory, unlikely in practice to become a reality. Nor is it, at least in theory, necessarily a bad thing that it should happen. It is possible to conceive of a single owner of all mass media so conducting his affairs that the basic idea behind the establishment of press freedom would be fully realized. This hypothetical owner might exercise his power in such a way that full ventilation would be given to all the conflicting cross-currents of public opinion.

Favorable Comparison

The fact is, indeed, that, in spite of the consolidation of power in this field, in spite of the emergence of monopolies and quasi-monopolies, the newspapers of Canada as a whole can stand favorable comparison with the press of any other country. There is, in this country, a very fair sense of public responsibility on the part of the owners of the press. It is by no means perfect but it is a reasonable judgment that Canadian newspapers do present news fairly and, on the whole, adequately, if the standards of comparison is taken to be not some impracticable ideal but the standards existing in other comparable countries.

A weakness to be sure does exist in the presentation of editorial opinion. Newspaper owners on the whole belong to the so-called capitalist class. Their editorial views reflect this though with gradations of vigor and conviction far more marked than the thoughtless critic is apt to admit. Comparison of the editorials in the Montreal *Gazette* and the Toronto *Star*, or those of the Ottawa *Journal* with the Peterborough *Examiner*, will illustrate this point. The basic weakness does, however, remain and is a cause of resentment and alarm in some quarters as witness the attempt of the Nova Scotia miners to establish the Glace Bay *Gazette*, and of an assorted group of cooperators and trade unionists to launch the newly-founded Winnipeg *Citizen*.

While this resentment seldom finds effective expression, it emerges in other ways. There is, on the part of the public, little of the affection which was at one time widely expressed of newspapers by their readers. Much of that affection was of course the slop-over of the violent partisan political passions and prejudices of the Canadian people. Newspapers used to be almost exclusively party organs and Grits and Tories lauded their own newspapers as part of the party game. That era is over. There are now few party newspapers—Quebec excepted — and there is a growing spirit of cynicism and distrust about the newspapers entering our homes. It has a large measure of irrationality about it, but it is there just the same, the consequence perhaps of the basic distrust of a democracy of any concentration of power. It is a fact which the newspaper trade should keep in constant account.

Ubiquitous Cynicism

Cynicism and distrust are not confined to Canada alone. They exist everywhere. We are conscious of them most in the countries most familiar to us where the press rests in private hands. In all likelihood, if active indoctrination has not completed its dirty work, they exist in far greater measure in those countries where the state has assumed a monopoly of all the agencies of mass communication.

They are in any event widespread, and an illustration of their strength may be cited from the proceedings of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information at Lake Success. The Canadian representative introduced a working paper which contained the following sentence: "The spirit animating the owners of the press is more important than the nature of ownership itself." This represented an attempt to emphasize the orthodox western view that the benefits of private ownership were great enough to overweigh the alleged benefits — in fact the great evil—of state control; and that, so long as the spirit of ownership represented social and political responsibility, these vital organs could be safely left in private hands. The proposition met the support of American and British representatives, but it ran into opposition from editors and working journalists hailing from France, Norway, Holland and Czechoslovakia, all of them (it was before the Communist *coup* at Prague) representing the finest tradition of Continental democracy.

The reason for their opposition was interesting, for it flowed from their experience of Nazi occupation when far too great a number of

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newspaper owners had welched and gone over to the enemy. Pertinax, the distinguished French representative on the Sub-Commission, was particularly vehement. He set forth the venality and corruption of the French press before the war, its poor performance during the war, and declared that the Sub-Commission's main job was to frame measures of reform, the study of which would eliminate the possibility of any return to such a plight. He re-stated his basic conviction that state control was the worst of all possible alternatives, but he stood stubbornly to his guns in the demand for action against the abuses which the modern press manifests too much.

Elements in Larger Picture

This led to a discussion of the changing function of the privately-owned press in western countries, a discussion which has a direct bearing on our own situation in Canada. Quite apart from the possibility of corruption, the tendency of the great modern newspaper is to cover a far wider field than that occupied by the pioneers of press freedom. John Milton, Charles James Fox, Thomas Jefferson, Lord Mansfield and the rest would be indeed more than a little surprised to pick up the average Canadian paper and discover so many columns of space devoted to Orphan Annie, Joe Palooka, Dick Tracy and Wash Tubbs, to say nothing of beauty notes, baby notes, bridge notes, and a dozen other trashy features of the silliest kind. But, being able men, they would rapidly discover that the cost of modern news services and of production necessitated mass circulation and mass advertising and that all these were essential elements in a larger picture. Having adjusted themselves to these exigencies they would however examine the real news content of the paper and, if they were fair men, they would realize two things. The first would be that sensationalism and simplified treatment of news had become almost standard practice. The second would be that the reputable papers of this country, few in number though they might be, were all striving after objectivity in a way unknown in their own ages when the art of printing was dedicated to the cause of propaganda with little regard for the truth. Reporting in the western world today—and notably in Canada—has reached a degree of objectivity unknown to any previous era in press history. There has never been "a golden age."

But, because this is so, and because the temper of our age is what it is, it would be well for the newspaper world to stand back more often than it does, and take a hard and disinterested look at what its product is. Much that it would find there is good. There are other aspects less satisfactory and it is upon these that critics centre their attention, including that still fortunately small band of critics whose real objective is the destruction of a press free and independent of government control.

Too Easy Corrective

Our newspaper world would do well to remember the lessons and the criticisms of the European editors at Lake Success. They, it may well seem, are so ready to find quick correction of the faults that doomed them under the Nazis that they are now in danger of throwing the baby out with the dirty bath water. The apparently easy way to correct abuses is to adopt the modern usage and pass a law about it, paying little heed to the harm that law may do as well as the good. The real remedy lies in internal reform, internal self-criticism, internal self-help.

A small but very useful beginning has been made in the creation of the Canadian Managing Editors' Conference which held its second meeting in Montreal last February. Its moving spirit is R. A. Farquharson, Managing Editor of the Toronto *Globe and Mail*, who has made the news columns of that newspaper a model worth close study and examination. The meetings of the Conference are very informal but anyone who attended them would discover that such tough and competent operators as R. J. Rankin of the Halifax *Herald*, Tom Buckland of the Toronto *Telegram*, R. B. Rogers of the Regina *Leader-Post* and K. Drury of the Vancouver *News-Herald* are far from satisfied with their own performance. They approach their jobs, as indeed most editors do, in a severe spirit of self-criticism. They are in a constant mood for self-reform, though they, again like most editors, prefer to do their soul-searching in private instead of admitting their mistakes to their readers. They would gain public confidence if they tried the latter course.

The Managing Editors' Conference can be made useful in many ways, not least because it contains within itself the embryo of an organization which some day may establish professional standards of competence and conduct, a recognition that the newspaper trade is, in the American phrase, "affected with a public interest." That is to say that the responsibility of the men in the craft is not only to those for whom they work but to the public as well.

A Managing Editors' Conference alone will not do this, as the American Society of Newspaper Editors has discovered for itself: "For it is quite evident," writes Mr. Justice Sutherland of the U.S. Supreme Court (and in another context), "that one who holds office only during the pleasure of another, cannot be depended upon to maintain an attitude of independence against the latter's will." The newspaper problem—if there is a problem—is one that will be settled ultimately by the proprietors themselves.

In Canada it will be gratefully acknowledged that our newspaper proprietors have never taken unreasonable attitudes in their defence of the freedom of the press. In the United States, in the early days of the New Deal, their American counterparts fought against the extension to their business of child labor legislation because, so they claimed, the Constitution in providing for freedom of the press gave them exemption from such encroachment by the State. It was an attitude which brought them little public acclaim. They would have been in closer accord with public opinion had they declared their readiness to enforce upon themselves the same kind of discipline which exists, for instance, in medicine and the law.

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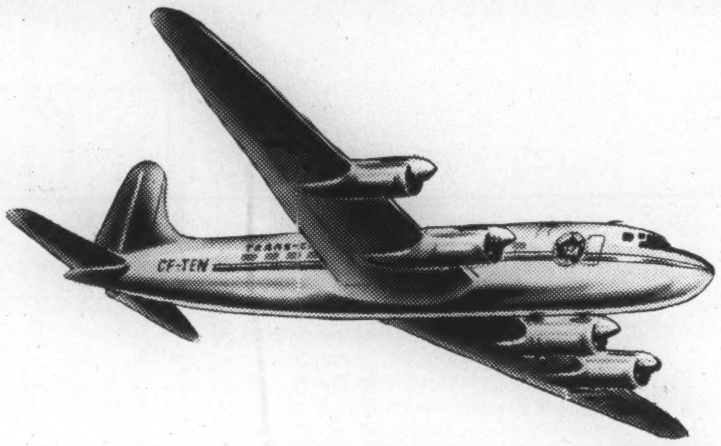

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OTTAWA LETTER

How to Insure Adequate Opposition in Gradually One-Sided Senate?

By WILFRID EGGLESTON

Ottawa.

THE recent deaths of two more Conservative senators, taken from what was in any event a small, dwindling and ageing Opposition, draws attention to the quite exceptional and probably unforeseen condition into which Canada's Upper House is inevitably being driven. Unless there is a change of government in the early future, or some amendment of the manner of appointing senators, the fading Opposition in the Senate will soon cease to be able to discharge its parliamentary responsibilities. By that time the Senate will have become virtually a solid block of Liberal appointees, in a country where probably not more than 40 per cent of the people are Liberal supporters. By the accident of a prolonged era of office by one political party, it will have become a one-party chamber, in effect, thus nullifying one of the purposes in the minds of the Fathers of Confederation in creating a second chamber.

The House of Commons has suffered since 1935 from an inadequate Opposition (though this is being somewhat rectified as those to the left of the Speaker gain experience and initiative), and now the Senate is faced with the virtual extinction of any party Opposition at all. There will be those who dismiss the usefulness of a second chamber in a summary fashion: they will shrug their shoulders and observe, So what? Others who cling to a belief in the value of thorough debate and vigorous cross-examination of every public issue and every government or private bill will deplore this weakening of Canada's legislative machinery.

It might be argued from last week's performance that there is no danger of an Opposition completely disappearing from the Senate; that a division within the Liberal party in the Senate will spring up, and will subject government legislation to as severe handling as anything displayed by party Oppositions in the past.

A Powerful "Rump"?

In other words, that some Liberals in the Senate will challenge the tendency of the Liberal Cabinet to accept socialistic measures, will consistently fight state-planning and state-intervention, such as that implied in state-marketing of coarse grains. It is conceivable that in a Senate almost exclusively composed of Liberal appointees, a powerful "Rump" might come into being, dedicated to old-fashioned Liberal principles, supporting private initiative, civil rights, free trade, and other planks of the Liberal platform of 1919, against state paternalism, collectivism and other more recent doctrines of the Liberal party.

If this should happen, the Liberal "Rump" in the Senate might be doing much of the same work as Messrs. Diefenbaker, Macdonnell, Smith Graydon and others in the House of Commons; and in this rather odd way a sort of "Conservative" opposition come into being in the Senate without the appointment of any party followers of Mr. Bracken at all!

However, I am getting a little ahead of my story. If anyone doubts my conclusion about the threat of early disappearance of the Conservative party in the Senate as an active force in law-making, let him look at the following figures:

Party Standing in Senate,
March 27, 1948

Liberals	64
Conservatives	21
Vacancies	11
	96

If Mr. Mackenzie King fills the vacancies with Liberals (and so far he has shown no great propensity to appoint political opponents!) the standing will be 75 Liberals to 21 Conservatives. The situation, however, is worse than the figures themselves would suggest. The Conservative senators are the appointees of Borden, Meighen and Bennett. The Borden-Meighen appointees of course, were chosen before 1921. They were not young men when they came in, and 27 years have since elapsed. The Bennett appointments were made between 1930 and 1935, 16 of them in the years 1930-34 and 17 more in election year, 1935. But there has been an exceptionally high mortality among the Bennett appointment, so that only 14 of the 33 Bennett appointees are still alive to-day. The result is that of the 21 Conservative Senators forming the Opposition in the Upper Chamber to-day, no fewer than eight are from 80 to 87 years old; and only seven are under 70.

It is hardly necessary to add that a Senator is not necessarily ineffective because he is old; some of the wisest statesmanship here and elsewhere has come from men eighty or over. But an Opposition of 21 Senators with an average age of about 74 years, including several who suffer, naturally enough, from some of the infirmities of advanced years, and with no hope of being supplemented by younger appointments so long as the Liberal party continues in office, is obviously not in a very strong position as it faces the future.

Proposals for Reform

Frequently in Canadian political history the Senate has been under fire, and proposals for reform have been put forward. So long as there was an alternation of political parties in power and the Senate reflected the changes, maintaining a reasonable balance of strength, there was a healthy squaring-up to political issues. The Senate might be vulnerable enough to other kinds of criticism, but at least it could be contended that proposals already debated in the Commons would be subjected to a second—and perhaps wiser, more leisurely and more mature—consideration in the Upper House, by parties representing different political philosophies. It may soon be impossible to advance such an argument, and enemies and critics of the second chamber will be able to add one more count to their condemnation.

The present Senate contains, of course, some exceptionally able men, on both sides of the Speaker. A process of constructive internal criticism has been going on for years. The late Senator J. J. Bench made a number of interesting suggestions for improving the usefulness of the Senate; and even more drastic proposals have been voiced by Senator A. K. Hugesson. The milder of these proposals offer ways of using the latent resources of the Upper Chamber more thoroughly; the more drastic of recent suggestions include retirement of senators at certain ages, provincial appointment of senators, a change in the constitution to make the Senate an elective body. Any of these latter amendments would require a change in the British North America Act. They are probably not in the realm of practical politics, not at any rate as an early reform. Some of them would introduce more evils than they would cure.

Another reform, under the very special circumstances listed above, would be non-party appointments to fill the vacancies. Mr. Mackenzie King could choose men and women from the general public, regardless of their party affiliations or their political service. He could add men and women from the ranks of Labor, from the organized farmers, from the arts and professions.

Objections, of course, to any of these kinds of appointments will spring to mind as soon as they are listed. The Senate is a legislative body, and needs trained and experienced law-makers, if it is to do a competent job. Even so, weighing one evil against another, a sprinkling of intelligent and accomplished citizens without specific training in the making or administering of laws might be a net gain. A more formidable obstacle is political in nature. With a score of party workers clamoring for every vacancy, what would happen to a party leader who filled the Senate with political neutrals or active opponents? One's imagination boggles—I think that's the word—at any such prospect!

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LOWERS SELF INTO WELL

The young Scout acted quickly. Gripping the side walls as well as he could, he let himself down into the water. Diving beneath the surface he grasped the boy's clothing and brought his head up. Then he tread water, holding the inert form of the little victim until help came and a ladder could be lowered into the well. The youngster recovered after artificial respiration had been given.

This Boy Scout's good deed for the day included a display of cool courage and presence of mind unusual in one so young. We are proud to pay tribute to Alan Laking of Kearney, Ontario, through the presentation of The Dow Award.

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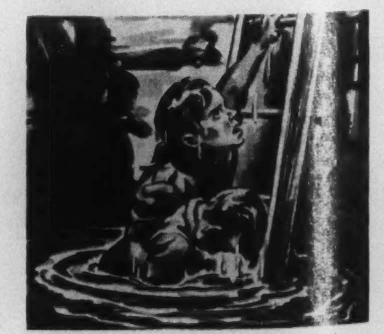

Holding the boy's head above the surface, Laking tread water until a ladder was lowered and he was able to carry the lad up to safety.

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WASHINGTON LETTER

National Resources Mobilization Under Way Without Flourishes

By JAY MILLER

Washington.

WHO won World War II? The American Peace Society says nobody did, because none of the basic Atlantic Charter objectives of peace and security for all have been achieved.

Who will win World War III? The concensus of replies to that appears to be that the democracies won't unless they prepare militarily to back up what they say.

The Peace Society, an early advocate of an Assembly of Nations and a World Court, has evaluated the "calculated risk of war" and come up with the conclusion that the Marshall Plan is well worth the cost as a step toward guaranteeing peace. The Society recalls that World War II was fought to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from want and fear.

The assumption that World War II is over "and that the peace for which it was fought has been won" are "but illusions," according to this group. Its leaders declare that the proposed cost of the Marshall Plan to the United States "will be but a fraction of what it cost to destroy the Nazi tyranny and even a smaller fraction of what it might have cost had the war continued for another year."

In this article we will endeavor to outline more about American efforts to improve national security, the need for which is being hammered home relentlessly in American publications.

The current comment from *Time* magazine on the "struggle for survival" states the possibilities of the next decade as follows: "Ten years from now a divided, stunned and defeated U.S. may be trying to adjust itself to a Communist-ruled world. Ten years from now a weary, mangled and victorious U.S. may be trying to salvage what it can from the radioactive wreckage of the world. Ten years from now, a busy, peaceful U.S. may be helping to push forward the frontiers of freedom everywhere in the world."

And as a footnote, the newsmagazine concludes: "The U.S. and its friends have the power to stop World War III. If they don't, they will be guilty, along with the aggressors, ten years from now."

End or Beginning?

It may be academic to debate whether the present "cold war" is a continuation of World War II, or the beginning of World War III, but these views do reflect the realization, in the highest governmental circles and down through the masses of America, that these are times for preparedness.

The disclosure that all of Russia is within bombing range of U.S. planes appeared at first glance to be good news, but on reflection it is apparent that this continent must be equally accessible to the Soviets. Russian fliers flew here non-stop with the same proficiency of Yank globe-girdlers. Movements of unidentified submarines in the Pacific got a big play in American newspapers last week.

It is apparent that the subject of military preparedness is of concern to all of North America. American military planners are getting backing from Congress to strengthen U. S. fighting arms, and a start has been made in reorganizing the civilian front along practical lines, without the fan-dancers and aesthetic flourishes that placed the wartime O.C.D. in such a bad light.

The third phase of preparedness is the question of securing adequate supplies and material. Preliminary planning is in the hands of the National Security Resources Board, headed by Arthur M. Hill, an American businessman. Necessity of its role is underscored by a report of the National Defense Committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in its call for a "complete national security program," which charges that there have been inadequate results up to this time in the stockpiling of strategic and critical materials.

Mr. Hill realistically concedes that the U. S. is "not at peace with the world—actually or by statute." In preference to the term "cold war" he would describe the present "era of turmoil and uncertainty" as "a state of world revolution with the line-up between two ideologies—international communism against the democratic way of life; slavery under dictatorship against the democratic and free way of living." In spite of opposing politics, Mr. Hill stands wholeheartedly behind President Truman's appeal to Congress of March 17 for prompt passage of the European Recovery Program, Universal Military Training, and Reenactment of Selective service.

National Stock-Taking

He points out that despite American eminence in industrial resources and production, the nation is in a far less comforting position as to natural resources. There is immediate need for a national stock-taking and to arrange for other sources of supply. The Marshall Plan has been suggested as a means of assuring sources of critical and strategic materials.

Chemical synthesis, which was developed amazingly by German scientists during the last war, is an effective American source of supply. American-made rubber is one example. Petroleum products are also being synthesized and Interior Secretary Krug has asked for a long-term construction program. Mr. Hill illustrated the necessity of civilian participation by pointing out that the same oil used in jet airplane engines is in heating fuel. Yet in recent months, there has been a heavy trend toward the use of oil heat in homes, hotels and industries.

Mr. Hill explains that the National Security Resources Board is a civil organization designed to advise the president on the coordination of military, industrial and civilian mobilization in the event of war. The Board consists of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defence, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor.

It is one of three coordinate agencies on an equal level created under the National Security Act of 1947. The National Military Establishment is headed by Secretary of Defence, Forrestal and was created to unify the armed services. The National Security Council is composed of President Truman as Chairman, the Secretaries of State, Defence, Army, Navy and Air Force, and the chairman of the National Security Resources Board. Its purpose is to keep abreast of events and situations throughout the world in relationship to U.S. national security.

In other words, the Security Council considers foreign relations, the military establishment, involves strategy and tactics of the military, and the Resources Board covers virtually all aspects of the national economy.

In the three months of its existence, the Resources Board has, despite an incomplete organization, tried to prepare for war whenever it might come—including the immediate future.

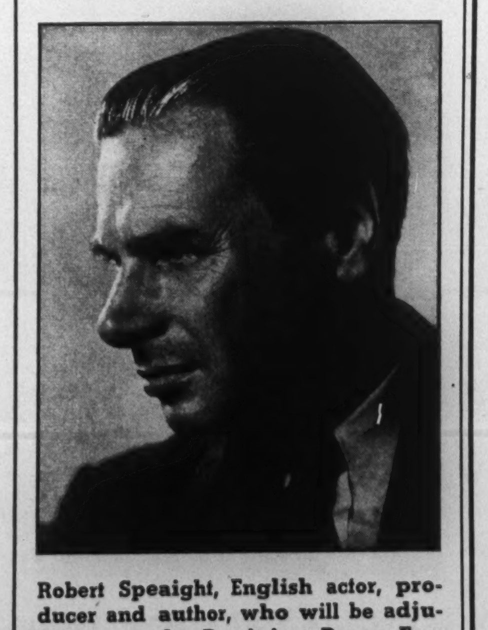
Important in industrial mobilization is contact and planning between the military procurement and prospective suppliers. Already the output of certain industrial, as well as industrially-owned plants, have been assigned by the former Army and Navy Munitions Board to various military services.

Through educational orders, cooperative engineering by government and industry, procurement plans and the like, many plants and industrial companies have been made aware of their roles and missions in war production. Incidentally, a new blueprint for the War Production Board, without some of its much-criticized features, has been drawn up.

Necessary legislation and executive orders are being prepared and a roster of qualified men have been selected to fill jobs at top echelons.

Still in need are men with a knowledge of industry, production, machine tools, facilities, raw materials, management experts, men skilled in organizational problems, in personnel training, price controls, finance, economic stabilization, industrial engineering—and all of the other facets of American life.

That, in brief, is what is under way in the mobilization of American national resources. It may not have the startling effect of a Pearl Harbor in readying the nation's war potential, but it is a start, in case it is needed again.



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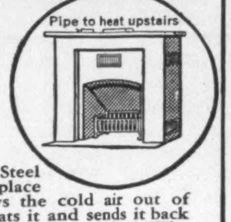

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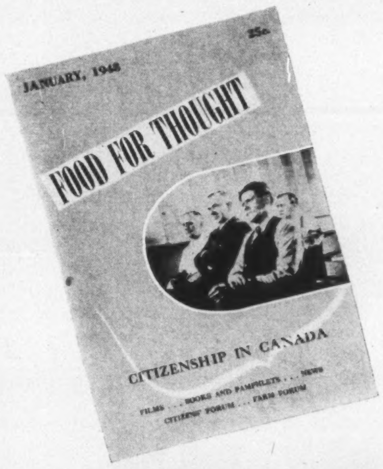
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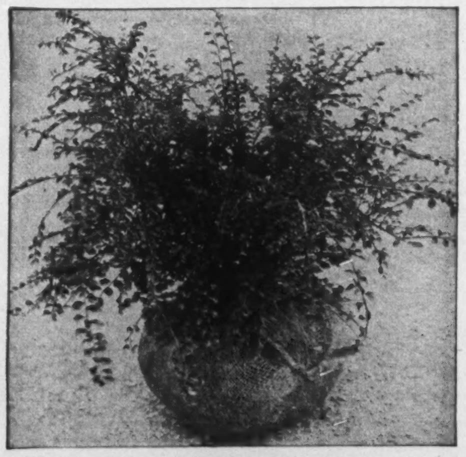

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

Background Fill-In

By MARY LOWREY ROSS

THANKS to the work of the Special Committee on Prices the public has become acquainted with the general price situation. Certain points, however, seem to need further clarification—e.g., the unanimity with which prices rose after the removal of controls, and the suggestions made by various distributors that the customers in some cases have actually benefited by the rise in prices. The following purely speculative sketches are an attempt to fill in the human-interest detail behind the press reports from Ottawa.

The first sketch (tentatively entitled "Who was that baker I seen you with last night?") is set in the room of a downtown hotel (name unstated). The time may be morning, afternoon, or evening. The members of the cast, who are all engaged in the baking profession, have come together purely for purposes of relaxation. At the moment they are engaged in a game of "Twenty Questions," and have just summoned in a Mr. Budgeon who has been waiting in the corridor while they have been thinking up an "object."

Mr. Budgeon: Is it a vegetable?

After a brief consultation the group agrees that the object is vegetable and Mr. Budgeon brightens.

Mr. Budgeon: Is it in this room?

Cries of "No, No!" "You're away off!"

Mr. Budgeon: Is it down at the plant? (He glances round.) At the plant, eh? And is it specially enriched, vitamized and made of only the finest possible ingredients?

There are encouraging cries of "He's getting hot!" "Come on, one more question!" In his eagerness a Mr. Fixbee leans forward and cries. "It's shaped like this!"

Mr. Budgeon: A loaf of bread!

After Mr. Budgeon has been congratulated, Mr. Fixbee who is considered to have given the answer away is sent into the corridor. The boys now think it would be fun to think of a number and when the number has been decided on Mr. Fixbee is called back.

Mr. Budgeon: The number we're thinking of is between 10 and 15 and you have only five guesses.

Mr. Fixbee tries first eleven, then twelve, then thirteen, and there are catcalls and cries of "Dimwit!" "Lunkhead!" and "Pretzelbrain". (Epithets are frequently bandied about at meetings of this sort and are intended only as good-natured raillery.)

There is considerable confusion at this point, some contending that fifteen was the figure agreed on and some, insisting that a lower figure was indicated. In the midst of the excitement Mr. Fixbee suddenly shouts, "Fourteen!" and everyone agrees finally that he was right.

(Author's Note: All names and events here are fictitious and any resemblance to any living character is purely coincidental. So is the fact that the following day the price of a loaf of bread jumped universally to fourteen cents.)

SKETCH NO. 2, which is set in another part of the hotel, employs the same cast and settings, including a large sign "No Shop Talk!" prominently displayed. Owing to a dislocation in the time sequence this episode takes place at a somewhat earlier period than the one noted above.

The members of the cast are engaged in a game in "Spit in the Ocean" when there is a loud knock at the door, and a Mrs. Edna Murgle enters. Mrs. Murgle is obviously a housewife—her hair is rather hastily done and she is wearing an Old Look coat over her house-dress.

Mrs. Murgle: Are you gentlemen members of the bakers' association?

Mr. Budgeon: You must have made a mistake, madam. This is a private party which has met for social purposes only.

Mrs. Murgle (advancing): I haven't made any mistake. I am here to represent a large and influential group of housewives and consumers and I want to talk to you boys about the proposed advance in prices.

Mr. Fixbee (nervously): You must realize, madam, that it is quite impossible for us to talk about prices with you, or even with each other.

Mr. Murgle (grimly): Never mind. I'll do the talking. (She glances about.) Well, gentlemen, I and the housewives I represent have been reading your literature in the papers and we are convinced that what the housewife wants and demands is a rise in the price of bread.

There is an embarrassed murmur from the group but Mrs. Murgle continues firmly: When you raised bread a cent for the sliced loaf there was an eager response from the housewife, wasn't there? Doesn't the housewife everywhere, with her special experience in household management, insist on and demand the highest possible quality at the highest possible price? Doesn't she show an overwhelming preference for the ten-cent loaf over the eight-cent chain-store loaf?

Mr. Budgeon: What you say is undoubtedly true, madam, but if you have read our literature—.

Mrs. Murgle (rapidly): And if a ten-cent loaf in preference to an eight, why not a twelve- or thirteen-cent loaf in preference to a ten?

Mr. Budgeon: Madam, if you have read our literature you must realize that we *prefer* the lower price, and it is only with the greatest reluctance—.

Mrs. Murgle (pleadingly): Or even a fourteen-cent loaf. Surely at a time like this you will do your best for your best customer!

Mr. Budgeon: At the moment we are not in a position to make promises. (He rises and escorts Mrs. Murgle gallantly to the door.) But you may rest assured that in this as in every other respect your wish will be our first consideration.

SKETCH NO. 3 employs the same setting, with a change of cast. The group now consists of the members of the Dairy Industry and Butter Holding Companies. The meeting as usual is informal and when the curtain rises the members of the cast are engaged in an animated discussion of the problem of growing house-bulbs in fibre. In the middle of the discussion Mr. Beamish rises. He is a small dark tightly tailored man with a vaguely conspiratorial air.

Mr. Beamish: There is a point I would like to hear discussed at the meeting.

The Chairman: As long as it has to do with the subject under discussion —variegations in type of imported paper white narcissi.

Mr. Beamish: We're all friends here together and I trust that what I have to say won't go any further than this room. (He glances about warily.) What I would like to discuss is the price of butter.

The Chairman: Mr. Beamish, surely you understand—.

Mr. Beamish: As you know, we have large quantities of butter in storage, purchased at 53.91 cents a pound. My proposal is this: Instead of asking 65.12 cents a pound we round up say a hundred butter-holders and get them to agree to sell at sixty.

There is a moment of stunned silence. Then the directors at the head table rise in a body, a movement facilitated by the fact that the directorate is interlocked.

The Chairman: Mr. Beamish, do you realize that what you are proposing is an illegal, not say criminal procedure?

Mr. Beamish (cynically): A smart lawyer could probably get 'round the technicalities.

AT THIS point the meeting is thrown into confusion. There are cries of "Crime Doesn't Pay!", "Direct contravention of the Combines Investigation Act", "Robbing the government of thousands of dollars in excess profits taxes," etc. etc. The excitement is greatly heightened by the sound of a police siren in the street below. The directorate collapses in its seat and even Mr. Beamish turns pale. A moment later there is a loud knock at the door.

It isn't the police of course. It is our old friend Mrs. Edna Murgle.

Mrs. Murgle: Gentlemen, I represent a large and influential group of housewives and consumers. We have heard a rumor that there is some talk of holding the price of butter at sixty cents. Have you considered, gentlemen, the appalling conditions this would create for the housewife? I am not exaggerating when I say that a criminal procedure of this sort, creating as it would be bound to a nation-wide butter shortage, would affect every home in the country. (Pleadingly) Surely you must realize that the only way to avert the disaster is to raise the price of butter to as high a figure as possible.

The Chairman (recovering): I assure you, madam, we will do everything possible in that direction. And now, if there's nothing else—.

Mrs. Murgle: Only this: I hope too you will do everything in your power to thwart the iniquitous bill that would thrust margarine on the helpless Canadian housewife. Good-day, gentlemen.

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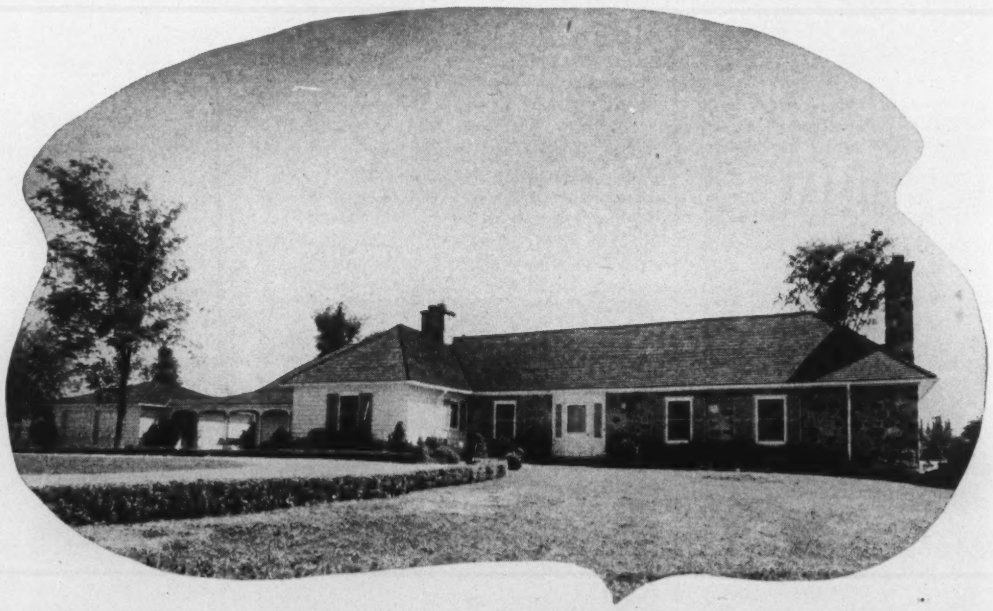

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Better Commonwealth With More Variety

By SCRUTATOR

A member of the House of Lords proposes a supreme consultative body as a step towards a closer cooperating British Commonwealth. In such a scheme Prime Ministers would meet in plenary sessions, High Commissioners would meet in London monthly and a permanent secretariat would prepare the ground for discussions.

But any grouping of the Dominions in such a scheme, says this London political columnist, should be elastic enough to prevent stultifying veto action such as that which has thwarted U.N. cooperative efforts on several occasions.

London.

THE House of Lords, on the initiative of a famous Australian, Lord Bruce of Melbourne, recently discussed a very important subject—the development of more effective cooperation among the nations of the British Commonwealth. Cooperation within the Commonwealth, which successive wars have shown to be 100 per cent in war-time, is dangerously less than that in time of peace. Between the two world struggles the Commonwealth showed very little that could be called a common foreign policy; had it been otherwise, Hitler might have been deterred from taking his plunge.

Similarly again in today's situation a visible union of forces within the Commonwealth might contribute powerfully towards the eventual maintenance of world peace. But can it be thought that what has happened since 1945—in particular the abandonment of Imperial Conferences without putting anything in their place—is making a contribution of that kind?

At present the consoling word—the excuse for supposing it unnecessary to do any more than is being done—is "consultation." Lord Addison was able to assure the House that it was closer and more frequent than it used to be, and was yielding in the economic sphere very practical results. But its weak point is that it is almost entirely carried on between Great Britain and the individual Dominions. There is scarcely any consultation between Great Britain and the Dominions as a group or groups, and even less between each of the Dominions and the others. Thus there is little hope of developing common policies for the Commonwealth as a whole, or even for regional groups of its members.

Three-Fold Plan

Lord Bruce's proposal was three-fold. He would set up a supreme consultative body, to be known as the Council of British Nations. Its plenary meetings would consist of the Prime Ministers and might be held as, when and where desired. It would be possible to summon them specially to deal with specific matters. Meetings of a more routine character might be held in London monthly, at which the Dominions could be represented by their High Commissioners. But (and here comes the bone of contention) to render such meetings sufficiently worth while there must be a permanent secretariat. It would need to be a "first-grade" one. Its business would not only be to prepare the ground for discussions, but also to follow up conclusions.

There is much to be said for the first two proposals. But what of Lord Bruce's third item—the secretariat? Of course he knows that the Imperial Conference has hitherto rejected it. Has he any reason to think it might be accepted now?

Let us own that it presents some theoretical difficulties. The greatest is that of responsibility. Could responsibility to eight or more governments jointly be made a working proposition, or would there be a danger of the secretariat's becoming a source of quarrels? Such a point might be of real importance if you were dealing with a random collection of nations. But the Commonwealth is not that. Its members are united by good-will. Surely they could be trusted to work in common any simple machinery designed for that end?

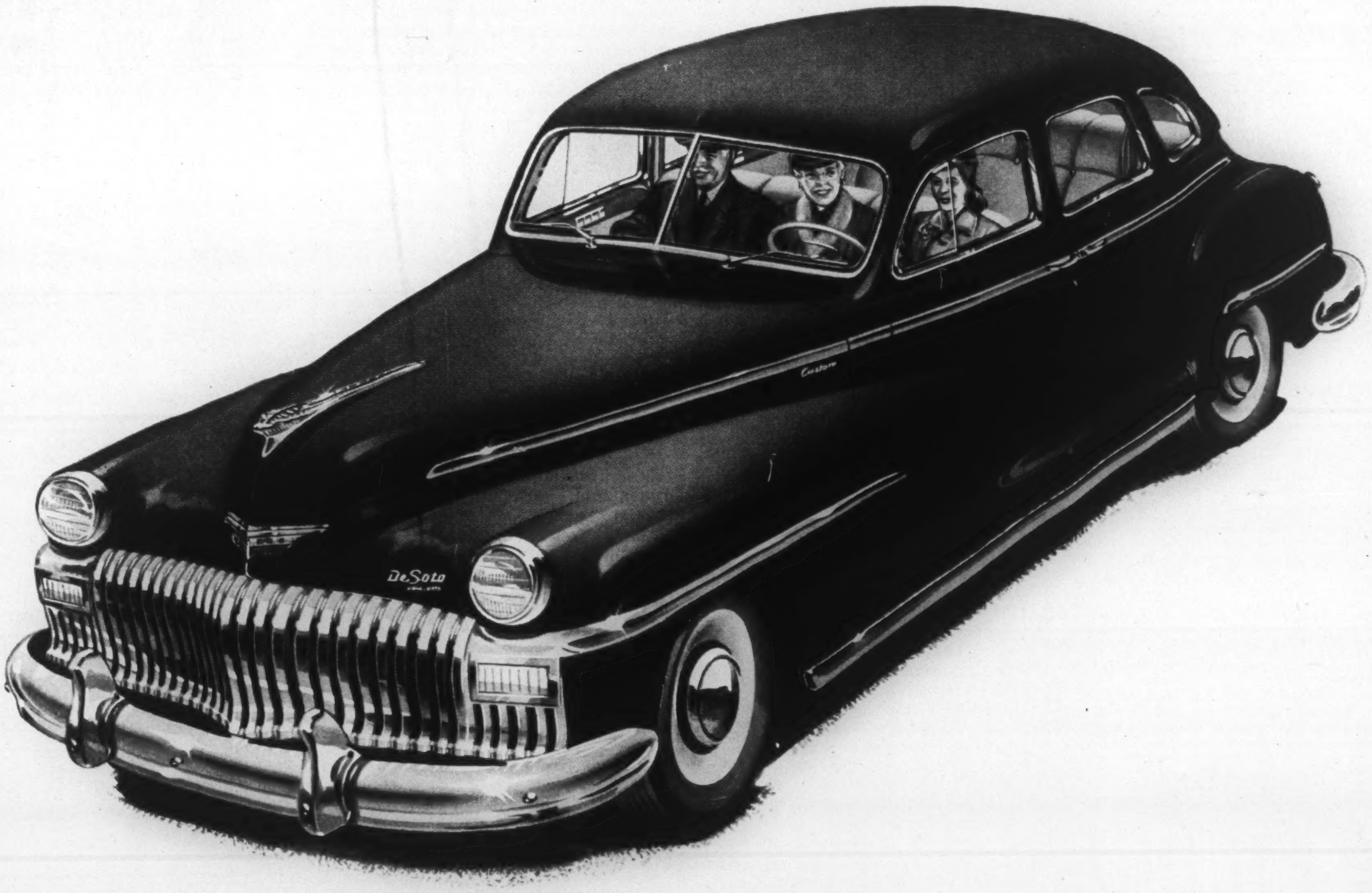
The real difficulties lie elsewhere. The principal objection, whether to a secretariat or to any other proposal for increasing cooperation, is Canada, where the French Canadians have come to be for the most part definitely opposed to commitments based upon the British connection. If they want to veto Canada's participation in any attempt to make that connection function more effectively, they are constitutionally entitled to do so. But so long as we proceed on the assumption that all the Dominions must stand in exactly the same relation to us and to the Commonwealth, a veto on Canada's action becomes a veto on that of all the other Dominions; which is absurd.

More Elasticity

This is probably the point at which change is most needed. Dominion status requires to be rendered more elastic. Some Dominions, for geographical or other reasons, may desire a fuller cooperation than others. Take, for instance, the group that are situated around the Indian Ocean—Australia, South Africa, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. These have an obvious geographical common interest. New Zealand would probably feel a sufficient share in it to join them in any corresponding pact. But Canada would not; nor, if she became a Dominion again, would Newfoundland.

Professor Wheare, of Oxford, whose studies of the Statute of Westminster and of Federal Government are standard books, recently suggested in a B.B.C. talk that now the Commonwealth has come to comprise nations of such different origins and characters, the old hard-and-fast common terms may not prove equally suitable for all of them. Some may wish to be in a Commonwealth, but not in a "British" Commonwealth; some may desire a tie, but not the tie of a common Crown; and others may dislike the term "Dominion," as is suggested by our recent conversion of the Dominions Office into a Commonwealth Relations Office.

One may doubt whether the first change is admissible; for the real basis of the Commonwealth (and this applies to the new Dominions no less than the old) is a common education in British political ideals. But, that apart, it does seem probable that, both in names and in factual relations we should be prepared to admit more variety than hitherto within the Commonwealth's membership.



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THE WORLD TODAY

Stalin Really Has Gone Too Far, Roused Winchell and Louella

By WILLSON WOODSIDE

IF Mr. and Mrs. United States are not awake to THE CRISIS by now, that is not the fault of Walter Winchell, ex-Commander U.S.N. Or, for that matter, of Louella Parsons, matriarch of Hollywood. When her "Number One Exclusive" becomes a call to all Americans with connections in Italy to cable—not write—their people there to vote against the Communists, it is clear at last that "the people of America" are in world politics with a vengeance.

And as for Winchell—well, there were correspondents who predicted gleefully after that famous two-and-a-half-hour press conference of Vishinsky's last fall that the Soviets would rue the day they took on such an adversary. Since then the café gossip and the famous expectancies have gradually gone out the window, and the rattling delivery has been reduced to a measured tone of warning and counsel.

I am not making fun of the inimitable Winchell. If ever there was a man trying to do his best for his country it was Winchell last Sunday. And probably it is as good an indication as any, not only of the alarm which has seized the States and the strange forms which this takes, but of the degree to which the average American—to whom Winchell must be close, with his immense mail—has been aroused to the role of his country in world affairs today.

But, Mr. President . . .

As I recollect this talk, it started with an affirmation that President Truman was doing his honest best, with no thought of election politics in his mind. But there were a few things which the President had overlooked. Winchell warned him that Stalin was dangerously ignorant of the fact that the Commander-in-Chief (i.e. the President) did *not* have to wait on Congress to declare war. He quoted several precedents from Supreme Court decisions to show that if American forces or American territory were attacked anywhere, the country was automatically at war.

Stalin should be told at once that any action against American forces in Berlin, for example, would create such a situation. And he should be told that American Intelligence—and Winchell—know that the Soviet deadline for rolling into Western Europe has been set for mid-October.

Then Winchell made the somewhat more credible revelation that the Soviets are introducing Red Army soldiers in the disguise of coal-miners into Norwegian Spitsbergen (where Russia has mined coal under concession for decades). Stalin should be told that the British "Grand Fleet" (the Home Fleet isn't so grand these days) was standing north of the Shetlands, the R.A.F. was ready, and both Britain and Canada would be "in this" before sundown of the day the United States was involved.

Then the broadcast switched to an indictment of certain insidious advisers around the President who were wilfully scuttling the United Nations for the sake of "700 miles of rusty steel pipe in Arabia." Obviously this was the reversal of policy on Palestine, though that was nowhere mentioned. The villain here, it appeared, was the chief American Minister to the Middle East, Loy Henderson, who was alleged to have allowed the American-Arabian Oil Company to air-condition his Washington apartment.

The "Military Party"

Concluding, Winchell almost adopted the Wallace-Communist line, in painting an alarming picture of a "military party" in Washington which was rapidly consolidating its grip on the country's policy and, if unchecked, would have the control away from the civilian authorities before November, would have smashed the United Nations and perhaps dragged the U.S. into a preventive war.

That's Winchell—for whom one makes allowances. But here's Dorothy Thompson adding to the war scare, in her column on Monday morning. She pictures the Red Army "marching into the Middle East, on the tail of the departing British, with consummate ease. . ." Responsible Government sources have told her: "That would mean war. We don't believe the Russians want war." But she replies that "every recent move of the Russians, especially those in Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway and the tremendous election campaign in Italy, is a war move."

Then this pair of noteworthy statements, without a breath between them: "Occupation of the Middle East is essential to drive the United States from Europe and Asia. The Russians, obviously, wish to harvest the fruits of a triumphant world war without committing a technical act of aggression."

Such talk by an expert like Miss Thompson is an even more impressive measure of the war scare below the border. The Communist seizure of Czechoslovakia, carried out under Moscow's sponsorship, was precisely the harvesting of the fruits of a victorious war *without committing a technical act of aggression*. In other words, it was a safe move.

What is a War Move?

The "responsible Government sources" in Washington can see a great difference between this and the moves referred to in Norway, Italy and Palestine—moves which have not been made yet—which would be clearly outside of the Soviet sphere, as created more by the high-water mark of Soviet conquest than by Allied agreement. *These would be war moves,* and in the view of most Western diplomats and military men who have expressed an opinion Russia is not ready to risk war now.

Dorothy Thompson is mixed up here. If she means that all Soviet moves are made with an eye to a future war, or if she means that a political war is going on right now, then she should say so. For, as it seems to me, the nub of the whole argument going on today should be: what kind of a war should we expect with Soviet Russia, and how therefore should we prepare for it and fight it?

Let us take her warning that the Soviets are determined to drive the United States from Europe and Asia, without committing a technical act of aggression, by marching with consummate ease into Palestine "to endorse a U.N. decision." Now the Soviets cannot *drive* the U.S. out of Europe and Asia without committing an act of aggression. They might wait until—as they used to hope—the American people got tired of the burden of occupation and policing duty abroad. They might trick them out by making promises, Hitler style, that "this is my last territorial demand"—though it is unlikely that would work any more.

They might get away with the communization of Finland. But to send the Red Army rolling over Western Europe, as Winchell suggests, or "marchng" into Palestine, as Dorothy Thompson suggests, would be an act of open war.

Of course, the Red Army cannot "march" into Palestine, with consummate ease or any other way. It has to be embarked at Odessa and Nikolaieff into a fleet of transports and be convoyed through the Dardanelles and out into the Mediterranean. Whatever the Moscow Radio might declare about "endorsing a U.N. decision in Palestine," *no one would really know the intended destination of this force.*

I cannot conceive that the Turks would allow it to pass the Straits freely, trusting that it was headed for Palestine and not for a landing on the shores of the Sea of Marmora. From all indications they would fight; and they have the explicit promise of American backing in the Truman Doctrine.

The British and the Americans would not know whether this Soviet armada was really headed for Palestine, or for Greece, Suez, Italy or Spain. And for that matter, whatever the Soviets might say about endorsing a U.N. decision in Palestine, an intervention in this country in

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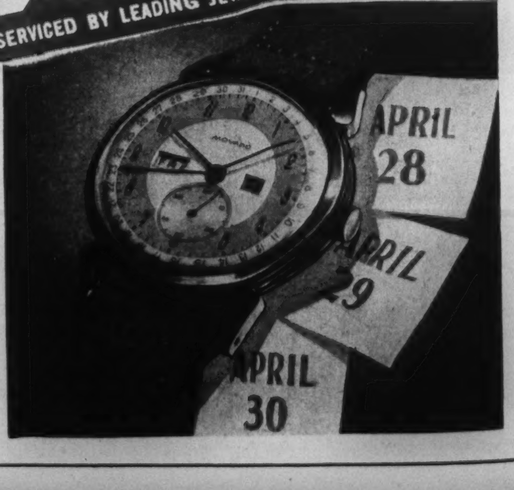

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such a manner would be no more tolerable to the Western powers than in any of the other places mentioned. I cannot conceive that, maintaining naval, aerial and land forces in the Eastern Mediterranean as they do, for the main purpose of preventing such a Soviet eruption into this critical area, the British and American Governments would not resist.

This would mean war—and the Soviet leaders have been adequately warned of that by the presence of an American carrier task force in the Mediterranean, the commitments to Greece and Turkey, the re-opening of the Mellaha air base in Tripoli, the frequent training flights of B-29s from Germany to the American leased base of Dahran on the Persian Gulf, and the known American interest in the oil of Saudi Arabia.

Soviets Cautious in Greece

I think that the Soviets have shown in Greece that they recognize this warning. They want Greece. It would mean a great strategic victory for them, outflanking the Dardanelles, isolating Turkey, and after Turkey, Iran.

What has prevented them, in the long run, from pouring sufficient Balkan satellite troops stiffened with Soviet leaders and technicians, into the struggle for Greece, but the presence of a single brigade of British troops? They did not want to throw down an open challenge to the forces of Britain, the closest ally of the United States.

It is the same in Berlin, where there is much talk of our troops being "forced" out by the Soviets. I have been impressed by the very small number of incidents in the areas where British or American troops actually rub elbows with the Red Army, in Germany, in Austria and in Korea, while the East-West political and diplomatic war has raged in all its fury. It seems clear that the order must have gone out "No incidents!" When the order is reversed to "Create Incidents" we had better watch out.

For the present the Soviets probably will confine themselves to annoying our Berlin authorities, making every manner of difficulty such as closing down "for repairs" the highway and the railway we use for supplying our garrison and the two-thirds of the Berlin population for whose food we are responsible, and trying to assert their control over all aerial flights into the city, as they are attempting to do at present.

Certainly they will make it difficult to stay in Berlin. But any withdrawal on our part would not only demoralize the German population in the Western zones but would be taken by the Soviets as a clear sign of weakness, and hence be a mistaken and dangerous move. And any attack on their part, against our garrison or our supply planes would be an open acceptance of war.

Drew Middleton's Reasons

I have tried over the past many weeks to give the reasons why I believe that the men in the Kremlin are not likely to launch a shooting war in the near future—the main one being that they are doing so well at another kind of warfare, in which they have a great advantage over us, and which is infinitely cheaper and less risky for them.

Drew Middleton, until a year ago head of the New York *Times* bureau in Moscow, marshals his reasons for a similar belief in the latest issue of that paper's Sunday Magazine. He says that while the Soviet Government regards war as an instrument of national policy, believes another war to be inevitable and is preparing for it in the future, he is firmly convinced that the Kremlin does not want war now.

As to when the Soviets might want war, he quotes with approval a distinguished British general who said recently that he would bet everything he owned that Russia would not be at war, unless attacked, in five years; half of what he has that Russia will not be at war in ten years; and nothing at all that she will not be at war in fifteen years.

Middleton gives as his first reason for believing the Soviet leaders do not want war now their absolute conviction that the future belongs to their system—though he himself believes that "their dreams in time will fade into the long nightmare of economic inefficiency produced by the glorification of party orthodoxy."

His second reason is the deep effect which he himself saw produced on Russian officers by the vast American armadas of only three years ago. His third reason is "the enormously important fact" that Soviet Russia will produce only about 17 million tons of steel in 1948—just a trifle more than Britain.

Let's Win the Cold War

He instances, further, the immense destruction which he viewed on three extended trips through Western Russia. He thinks it will take more than Stalin's estimate of six to eight years to restore this area to its industrial productivity of 1940. He cites the huge casualties of the war, no less than 15 millions, including many of the young technicians which the country needs so badly for its industrial reconstruction and expansion.

Middleton doesn't touch on Russia's atomic armament efforts, but these are dealt with this week by Professor Oliphant, one of the leading British atomic physicists. With the experience of helping to set up the British atomic project since the end of the war, he asserts that the Soviets will not be able to make more than one or two atomic bombs within the next five years.

Then he adds, "I go so far as to say that, if given complete blueprints and operating instructions for atomic weapon manufacture, together with the help of all of the principal scientists employed on the task in America, it would still take at least five years to make a reasonable stock of atomic bombs in Russia."

If the reader now lays down this article with his complacency restored, feeling that there really is nothing to worry about since there "isn't going to be any war", then I have sabotaged the peace. My whole point is that hysteria over the kind of war we are not likely to have may blind the people and the military leaders in America to the measures that need to be taken to fight the kind of political and economic war that is going on right now.

These steps are, in my opinion, a more impressive union of the Western democracies and a reformed United Nations; positive economic programs such as the Marshall Plan, European Customs Union, the schemes for the development of Africa, and the Havana Conference proposals for freeing world trade; a more alert diplomacy such as we have shown in the Trieste affair; keener political warfare such as we have embarked upon for the first time in the contest for Italy; and more energetic democratic action within all of our countries, to curb Communism by strengthening our free institutions, from union local up to national parliament.

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The Lights of Liberty Also Are Failing

By COMMANDER STEPHEN KING-HALL

Commander King-Hall, long an indomitable battler in the war of ideas, sees more democratic energy needed to keep the lights of liberty burning, just as more hydro current is needed for the lamps of home.

In this article he describes a new and constructive form of democratic action which he has helped launch in Britain, France, Belgium and Italy, and, more lately, in Canada on his mission here last month.

WHY do the lights go out? Many Canadian citizens recently have had occasion to ask this question. The lights went out because the electric current failed, and the current failed because there was not enough energy to drive the generators.

Why have the lights of liberty first glowed red in Eastern Europe, and then flickered into the gloom of the police state? Why has darkness descended upon Czechoslovakia? Is it because most of the Czechs did not care for liberty? That is a ridiculous question to anyone who has known this product of that 1914-18 war which was to make the world safe for democracy.

Why are the lights of liberty going out? *The answer is: because there has not been enough democratic energy, enthusiasm and spirit of self-sacrificing citizenship to keep these lights burning.* Don't say foolishly, "It can't happen here!" — "here" being either my country or yours. Are you sure that it can't happen soon in France and Italy, now among the outposts of democracy? I am not, and I have recently made an extensive trip by trailer through these countries.

My grandfather and my father were in Canada many times between 1840 and 1900. How they would have laughed if anyone had suggested to them that within a century the free parliamentary system and all that it stands for would be menaced all over the world by ruthless and determined enemies! Did we not take it for granted up to 1914 and even later, that the parliamentary system and the free way of life would gradually spread all over the world and one day reach its climax in the Parliament of Man?

Of course, we were told that the price of liberty was eternal vigilance. But surely, we thought, there is no more need to be vigilant and up and doing about the freedom of speech, association, press and religion, than there is to be vigilant about the rising of the sun! Events have proven our folly. *It can happen anywhere.*

What are we going to do about it? Are we to sit with folded hands and wait for the lights to be put out here too? Or are we going to act, are we going to energize ourselves and stop mouthing pious after-dinner platitudes about those liberties which thousands of men and women of our two nations have died to defend against Fascist and Nazi assault?

The Challenge

They died, these fellow-citizens, that we—that is, *you and I*—might live in freedom. We are trustees for the liberty we have inherited, and it is gravely menaced today. You have a right to ask what you as an individual can do. I will tell you. That was the purpose of my mission to Canada. But first a little history.

In 1943, happening to be in Canada on war work, I told my friend Dr. B. K. Sandwell of a small group in Britain which had set to work to tell the public that Hansard — the official reports of parliament—could be bought by anyone, and provided the only authoritative and complete account of what their representatives were saying in parliament. Dr. Sandwell at once took up the idea, and a similar group was formed in Canada, calling itself The Canadian Friends of Hansard.

Over in Britain we did not appreciate the full significance of what we had started. It was true that in Britain, as in Canada, the sales of Hansard showed a marked increase (so that the weekly edition of the British Hansard, which we proposed to the Stationery Office, has become a "best-seller" at 15,000 a week on the bookstalls). But what brought us to our senses was the flood of questions which began to come in from all over the country, and indeed, from many parts of the world, about every aspect of parliament.

The Discovery

Looking for the proper place to which to refer these, I consulted one fine evening in my garden down in Hampshire the *Whitaker's Almanac*, listing all of the learned societies of Britain. They began with the Association of Auctioneers and ended with the Zoological Society of Scotland. *But I found that there was no society in Britain, or in the whole world, whose job it was to study, to promote interest in, and to sustain, the institution of parliament,* the central institution of our free society.

It was an amazing discovery. Here was an institution, originating in Britain, which had spread across the globe and become the indispensable instrument of democracy, whether in the form of Congress, of British parliaments or of any other free assemblies. *Yet it had no public relations department,* no society, no organization to act as a link with the public.

British Hansard Society

It was as if the churches had no missionary societies, or the geographer no geographical societies, or business firms no advertising agencies or public relations service.

In that moment the Hansard Society of Great Britain was born. It has since become one of the most active and energetic in the country. Its aims can be described very briefly. They are: "To arouse interest in, and spread information about, the institution of parliament."

During the three years of the British society's existence I have had the honor to be its Director. It has today over 2000 members, including many of the leading schools, trades unions and business firms. Strictly non-party, its work is supported by the leaders of all political parties. It is recognized by the government as a non profit-making, educational society, exempt from taxation.

It publishes and sells thousands of copies of books and pamphlets about parliament in all its aspects. It organizes enormous youth conferences. It conducts an information department which is prepared to answer any question on any aspect of any parliament, and which is at the present time receiving about ten such questions a day from all parts of the world. The society is considering the making of documentary films about parliament. It has made a start in the building up of a library of parliamentary books and documents, including one of the half-dozen complete sets of the British Hansard in existence.

A few months ago the society launched a journal called *Parliamentary Affairs—the only quarterly journal in the world devoted to the institution of parliament.* Already it is selling all over the world. Another venture has been a book entitled "Our Parliament" which has sold more than 20,000 copies, in English, French and German editions.

Round Table of Youth

At a youth conference which the society held in London early this month 2500 tickets were sold to schools, and 3000 applicants had to be turned away. One of the features of this conference was a "round table" of members of parliament of all parties, which handled hundreds of questions put by the young people. A full recording was made of this session, and albums are being sought by many secondary schools.

The idea of the citizens' parliamentary society has spread to the continent of Europe. In Belgium a sister-society which calls itself *Connaissance du Parlement* is active.

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Societies are now being organized in France and Italy, and other countries are showing an interest. So much for a very brief outline of what has been happening in Britain; now let us come back to Canada.

The group which had founded the Canadian Friends of Hansard were well aware of the progress which had been made in Britain in this battle against ignorance and apathy and for the cause of freedom. So they decided to follow our example and enlarge themselves into a full-scale parliamentary society, to be called the Hansard Society of Canada, and invited me to come over and advise upon setting it up.

Canadian Society Formed

I arrived in Toronto in late February and in a fortnight addressed nine meetings in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, as well as many smaller gatherings and personal interviews. As an outcome the Canadian society has been set up, with Dr. B. K. Sandwell as the Honorary Secretary and Willson Woodside as the director of the organizing campaign. I think that their names and convictions will be known to all readers of SATURDAY NIGHT.

The aims and objects of the Hansard Society of Canada will be similar to those which the Hansard Society of Great Britain is already fulfilling so successfully. It will work to energize and strengthen Canada's parliamentary institutions, through youth conferences at which older students can meet and question leading parliamentary figures, through documentary films, and through public meetings addressed by eminent parliamentary visitors from abroad.

It will spread information about all aspects of parliament to students, teachers, librarians and other citizens through its publications and its information department. It will answer questions from business firms, professional people, farmers and others on anything that has been said in the Canadian or British (or other) parliaments which affects or interests them. It will aid Canadians travelling abroad to study the parliamentary institutions of other countries, and aid visiting parliamentarians, journalists and others to study Canadian institutions.

It will circulate, for the present, the quarterly journal of the Hansard Society of Great Britain—which covers parliamentary affairs everywhere, including Canada—while it is preparing its own journal. In all this, it will remain strictly non-party, with the sole limitation that its members must believe in achieving whatever they advocate through parliament.

The lights are going out. If you are among those who want to do something, *yourself*, to keep them burning, and to brighten them until they radiate across the world again, write for information to the Hansard Society of Canada, 220 Queen Street West, Toronto.

THE MELTING POT

Constitution Worship

By J. N. HARRIS

Montreal.

THE worship of antiquity and clinging to ancient traditions are not usually associated with the American people, least of all with the leftish Americans. It is therefore with starry-eyed wonder that we listen to sermons on the American Constitution as the symbol of progressiveness, liberalism, and any number of other things that it is very difficult to imagine it representing.

We have long suspected that the vast majority of the Americans who laud this document, even transporting it about the country in a special train, as if it were a golden calf or a railroad president, have never read the thing. Recent reports tend to confirm our suspicion.

(Let us hasten to add, in the interests of sport, that we have never read the thing either, our acquaintance with it being confined, virtually, to a book by a chap called Bryce, for which we paid over a dollar in fines to a Mr. Wallace in Toronto.)

What brings all this up is the gefluffle in the South about Mr. Truman's civil rights program (long overdue) which threatens to split the Democratic Party, and the steps by which Governor Tuck of Virginia proposes to defeat it. He proposes to leave all candidates' names off the ballot, and to have candidates for the Electoral College bound only to support the Party.

Thus, the State Conventions in the South would be in a position to blackmail the official Democratic candidate in the event that the southern vote could swing the election after the ballots were cast. In other words, they could say, "Truman, (or Eisenhower) we can make you president or we can hand it to Taft (or MacArthur) instead of you."

Now, they could add, we'd like to discuss your civil rights program.

The only southern voice raised in protest loud enough to be heard up here was that of Senator Pepper, and although we are not an admirer of the Senator, it will comfort him to know that he has our blessing in this matter. The interesting point, though, is that Mr. Pepper objects because such a scheme puts too much power into the hands of a little group of party bosses.

What nobody has said, however, is that this is very nearly what the Electoral College was meant to do by the makers of the U.S. Constitution. Change "party bosses" to "leading citizens" and you have it.

THE fact is that the constitution drafters were a highly unliberal crowd by modern standards. They knew something of the American mob, and didn't want to trust it too much. They feared that a demagogue could get in every time by promising baby bonuses and such-like, if the choice were left to the people, so they decreed that the president should be selected by a College of elected Electors, who would, of course, be solid citizens sitting down to discuss the matter in cool detachment, for the good of the nation. The system was to be similar to the election of Popes by the College of Cardinals, and the Electors were to have a free hand to choose any eligible man in the U.S.A.

The system never worked as they meant it to, because Electors have always been pledged to a certain candidate before they were themselves elected. This has resulted in the election of rabble-rousers like old Herbert (People's Choice) Hoover, Calvin (Call me Cal) Coolidge, and Woodrow (Woody) Wilson.

In contrast, certain presidents who *did* have wide popular appeal, such as Lincoln and the late F.D.R., are considered by many to have behaved in a more statesmanlike manner than some of the sobersides. But you can start plenty of arguments on that score too.

What Constitution Worship in the U.S.A. overlooks is the fact that this document was drawn up by a number of very conservative old coves who had been frightened by the bogey of Absolute Monarchy, and who were as keen on protecting the sovereignty of the 13 colonies as they were on establishing a system of government. What progress they made towards "democracy" was easily overhauled by the more flexible British constitution by about 1832.

It would be interesting to have some of those Makers of the Constitution return to our midst, so that they could ride about on the Freedom Train and state their views, especially their doubts about the fitness of the American people to select their Chief Executive. We can hear Mr. Winchell defending the American people and their judgment by pointing out that *he* was raised to his present pinnacle by popular choice, and we can imagine the constitution makers replying that that was just the sort of thing they were afraid of.

Note: We will always back the popularly elected man, bad as he may be, against the leader chosen by the small group, because the latter is always potentially worse. Too often, alas, we get a combination of both.

•

TURNING from our deep consideration of the conservatism of American rebels, we are struck by the similarity of the problem now faced by the Socialist government in England: Revolution, or Evolution. The specific point that brings it to a head, (and this would really have been a shockingly weak pun if it hadn't slipped out unintentionally) is whether judges and lawyers should wear wigs.

Hotheads in the Labor Party want to remove the wigs (dear me, it is impossible to avoid this sort of thing) but wiser counsels have prevailed.

The triumph of the British system of Justice has been its ability to operate in awful solemnity while its chief functionaries are dressed purely for comic effect.

If it were possible to look at an English judge irreverently, he would be a really comic sight, but such is the effect of the Old Bailey and the solemn ritual that the most frivolous person is afraid to giggle. Take away the wigs, and chances are judges will hold court in their shirt-sleeves within thirty years, and the dignity of the courts would be lost.

If wigs must go, the only safe method is to commence with wigs with bald patches in them, and to decrease the amount of hair per wig by a small portion each year.

That would be in the British tradition of not rushing into things.

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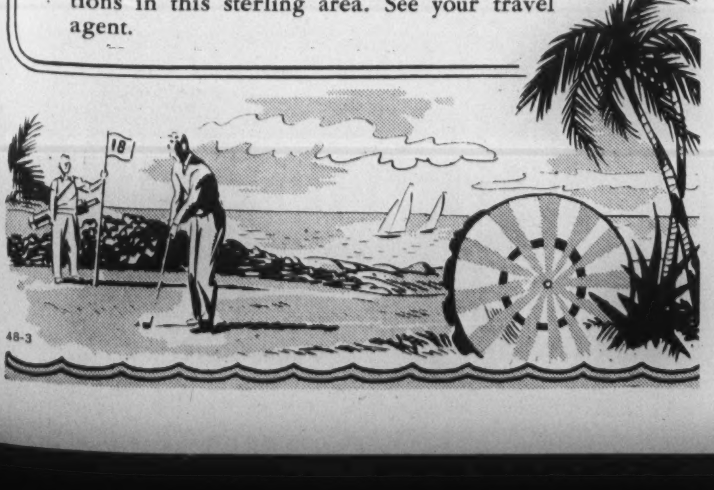

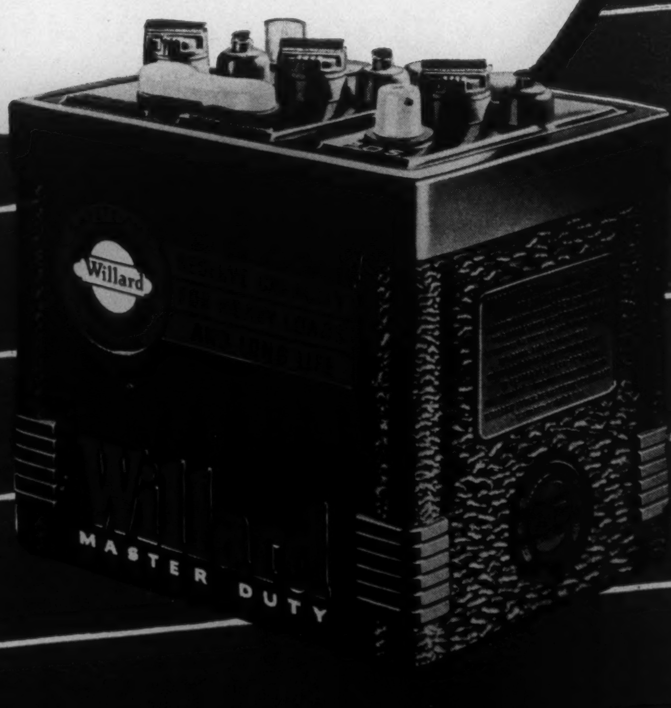

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FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

How Do Canadian Socialists Wish To Determine the Pay of Labor?

By B. K. SANDWELL

ONE of the great difficulties about non-Communist Socialism is its lack of any precise and workable doctrines as to how the produce of the community should be distributed to its members—how the income of the individual member should be determined. Communism has the advantage of a perfectly clear doctrine upon that point; "to each according to his needs". It is true that that doctrine is not at present in operation in Russia, where the existing rule is "to each according to his work", but that makes no great difference, because the actual distribution is absolutely regulated by the government, subject only to such limitations as are necessary to ensure a reasonable level of efficiency. At different times the Russian government has operated many different schedules of distribution, and is at present operating one with a very high differential in favor of the most needed skills of both labor and management. But when you have once placed the control of distribution in the hands of the political authority you have solved all the economic problems except that of getting the producers to produce; the government can distribute according to need or according to work or according to fidelity to the party or according to color of hair or shape of nose, and everybody will have to take what he gets and be satisfied, with the alternative of going to a concentration camp.

The non-Communist Socialists have seldom gone to this length; and indeed have seldom realized that there is a problem of distribution at all, further than to worry in a vague way about the possibility that capital and management may get too much and the worker too little. They seem to have completely failed to realize that the market value of any piece of work must either be determined by supply and demand, which implies competition, or by authority, which means government control. They have usually had a sentimental leaning towards the latter, which is natural enough in the case of that large majority of them which regards competition as immoral; but they have not faced the implications of the enormous increase which such a policy necessitates in the power and universal interference of governments. In Great Britain, however, the Labor Prime Minister, the official leader of the Socialist party, uttered a statement in the House of Commons last month which expressly repudiates the whole theory of government regulation of the distribution of the national income by any other means than taxation.

"It is not desirable," said Mr. Attlee, "for the government to interfere directly with the income of individuals otherwise than by taxation. To go further would mean that the government would be forced itself to assess and regulate all personal incomes according to some scale which would have to be determined." And that, of course, is the precise dilemma which has to be faced as soon as allotment of income in accord with the workings of supply and demand is abandoned. It is clearly no part of the policy of the British government to replace the competitive market system with a compulsory system of incomes determined by government authority.

High Wages Reduce Work

Unfortunately there is every reason to believe that the British government—not because it is Socialist, but because it is a government and like all other governments is under great pressure from its electors—is actually interfering to a serious extent with the free operations of supply and demand in regard to a great many kinds of labor, and is maintaining a price for some of them which is higher than the actual market value, in the world market, of the produce which results from the labor. Nor can we see much difference between the policies of the British government and those of the professedly non-Socialist Canadian government in this respect. And one of the most curious and distressing results of this overpayment is that it often tends to diminish rather than to increase the supply of the particular kind of labor which is being overpaid.

High wages do no doubt in course of time tend to draw new workers into the highly paid industries from industries which are less favorable to the worker; but this result is slow. The more immediate result of any marked increase in wage scales is to diminish the time worked by the individual worker; indeed in most recent cases the increase has taken the form of paying the same amount of "real" wages (purchasing power) for 40 hours' work as had been paid for 44 or 48 hours, thus diminishing the amount of production received in exchange for the wage by one-eleventh or one-sixth as the case may be. In the immediate postwar period of extreme shortages it has been possible to compensate for this reduction of work by increasing the price of the product; but we are gradually emerging from the shortage period, and as soon as world competition becomes effective it will be found that a great deal of this labor is costing more than it is worth *for export purposes*. When the shortages in the home market have been filled up, this means that there will be curtailment of production, unemployment, and a painful process of readjusting wages in accordance with reality.

Where are the Canadian Socialists going to find themselves when the process of redetermining a workable wage schedule has to be faced in this country? We should like to feel confident that they will accept Mr. Attlee's dictum that even a Socialist government should not interfere with the income of individuals except by taxation. But we are far from being sure of it. Their party is even more in the hands of the trade unions than Mr. Attlee's, which does owe its majority to the support of a large body of non-trade union voters; and we suspect that they will take the position that the present wage levels of various "privileged" trades are a sacred right which must not be tampered with, whether the goods which are produced by those trades are saleable

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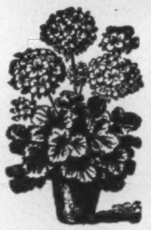

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Everyone's insurance needs are different, and personal consultation with an experienced adviser is the only way to arrange a satisfactory plan. The Mutual Life representative has been trained to help you work out the type of insurance best suited to your needs. Call him today and arrange an interview.
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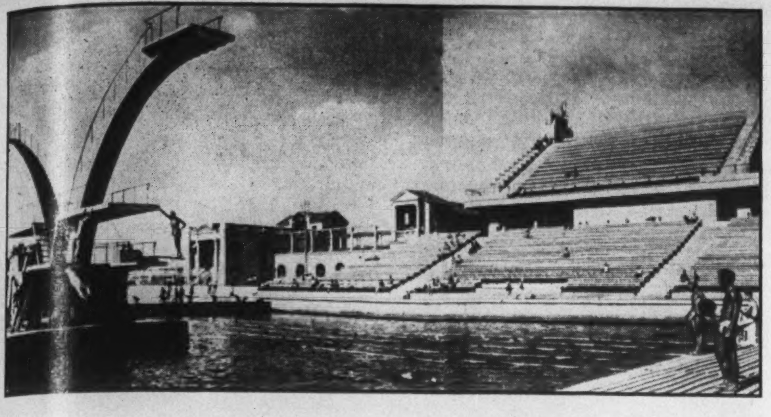

Russia's show-piece swimming-pool has now been completed at Khimki.

at prevailing world prices or not. If the market is mainly a domestic one they will probably add that the tariff must be employed to "maintain the living standards" of Canada against the degraded workers of the European democracies (if by that time any such survive).

As for that large proportion of the more sentimental Canadian Socialists which holds that profits are immoral, it really has no business in the Socialist party at all. That view should commit it to the Communist policy, which makes no bones about abolishing profits in the one effective way in which they can be abolished, namely by seizing the properties, the ownership of which produces them. I do not think that all of the clergymen who are preaching this doctrine of the immorality of profits realize that they are also inevitably preaching the class war; for if the class which obtains the profits makes no contribution to society in exchange for them—if the risks which it takes and the judgments which it provides have social value—if the operation of business can be just as well carried on by civil servants or commissars,—then the Communists are perfectly justified in demanding that the owners of income-producing property be deprived of their ownership. If there is a class in our society which is living on an immoral source of income, then it is perfectly proper and indeed most moral that there should be a war against them, and the class war doctrine is fully justified.

If there is competition in the purchase of labor, then the price of labor will be fixed by that competition, and there will be no need for government to interfere to say what shall be the income of this or that sort of labor or this or that sort of capital or management except to influence it in a general way by taxation. But if there is competition in the purchase of labor, then there will of necessity be profits (and losses) as a result of wisdom or its opposite in the purchase. If there are to be no profits, there must be no competition in the purchase of labor. And then the government will have, as Mr. Attlee says, "to assess and regulate all personal income according to some scale which would have to be determined". In Great Britain it is evidently possible to be a Socialist and not believe that profit is immoral, or that governments should assess and regulate all incomes. We should be much less alarmed about Socialism in Canada if some leading Canadian Socialists would assure us that they stand with Mr. Attlee and not with Mr. Stalin.

COBBLERS ARE HAPPY

REPAIRING shoes is a very gratifying job, almost more so than making new ones. One has the surgeon's satisfaction in healing, without the risks; not even the oldest boot gets internal haemorrhage under my knife. I like the smell of fresh leather and of the glue; I always have to whistle when I drive the tags into a heel—it's a conditioned reflex. The work is never monotonous; there are no boring preliminary stages, as for instance in carpentry preparing the wood with sandpaper. The transformation under my hands of a mud-caked, punctured, twisted, wrinkled relic into a shining, re-born, as-good-as-new boot is quick and exhilarating; I feel like a benevolent magician.

There is no other trade which provides the same intense contentment. A patch on a suit is a blemish; hence repair-tailors are a meek, diffident race with a look of secret guilt in their eyes. Or, if you are a garage-mechanic, you are always liable to come up against some nasty hitch on a job; a big rusty bolt which has got stuck somewhere where you can't get at it with the spanner, or a broken part for which there is no spare at hand. Hence garage-mechanics always look grumpy and reserved, and if asked how long the job will take they answer with wary and depressing you-never-can-tells; whereas I can always tell and have no fear of committing myself. My tags go in like a knife into butter and give me a sensation of effortless power. To cut a fresh leather sheet with a sharp knife following the curved contour of the heel gives me a clean, sensuous pleasure . . . I can imagine myself at no other permanent manual task; the monotony of digging in a field would drive me crazy in a fortnight. I can't understand that the others don't all covet my job.

Arthur Koestler in "Thieves in the Night".

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Here's the newest in tires to match the newest in cars!

The new Firestone Super-Balloon is a revolutionary new KIND of tire that gives you a revolutionary new KIND of ride.

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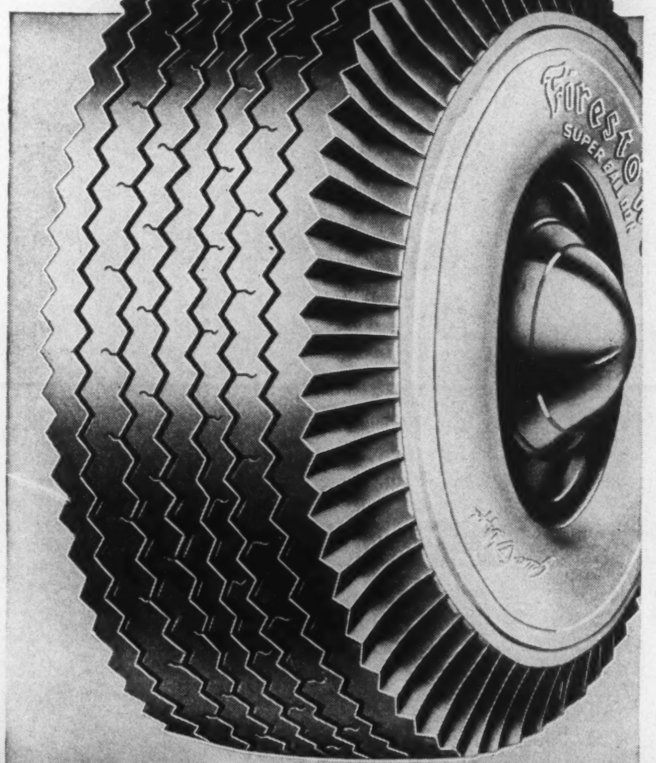
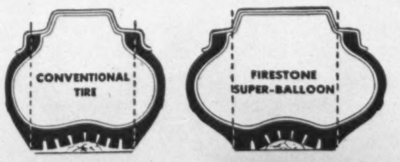
Exhaustive tests prove that with it you can drive more miles at higher speeds with less fatigue. You can stop more safely on any road in any weather . . . even with sudden stops on rough roads there is no chatter or wheel-bounce. This remarkable new tire *absorbs* the shock of hitting rocks, bumps and other objects instead of transmitting the shock to you and your car. It provides amazingly greater stability and enables your car to hug the road on curves.

MORE RIDING COMFORT

The new Firestone Super-Balloon is truly the tire of tomorrow, a wholly new sensation in restful riding, in non--skid safety, in blowout protection and in longer, more comfortable mileage. Many of the most famous automobile manufacturers will feature it on their 1948 models. And soon you will be able to put new Firestone Super-Balloons on your present car. Watch for them at you nearby Firestone Dealer or Store.



Cross sections show how more air volume and lower pressure permit greater flexing action when Firestone Super-Balloons go over bumps and rough roads.



LESS FATIGUE . . .
LONGER COMFORTABLE MILEAGE

This tire takes the punishment instead of you and your car. It absorbs road shocks instead of transmitting them because the tire body is larger and holds more air at lower pressure. You can drive farther, faster and longer without becoming tired. Reduced vibration results in the quietest, smoothest, easiest ride you have ever experienced.

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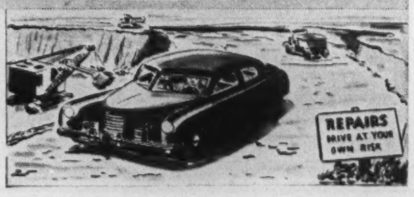
The combination of new Skid-Resistors molded into the tread and more area in contact with the road provide sure-footed stops and sure-footed starts on any road in any weather. The Safti-Sured Gum-Dipped cord body and cooler-running resulting from the larger volume of air at lower pressure provide the greatest protection against blowouts ever built into a tire.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KEEPS YOUR CAR YOUNG . . .
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THE BOOKSHELF

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Railway Building And Just Living In Canada's Mighty Mountains

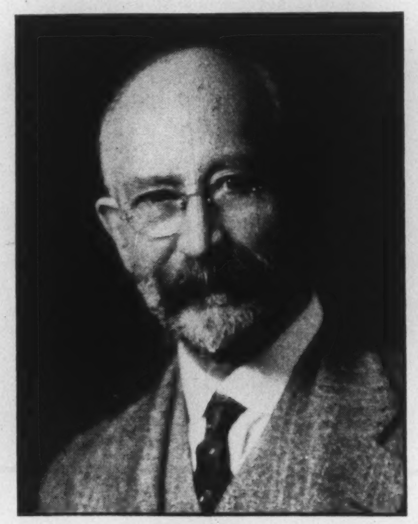
WHEN THE STEEL WENT THROUGH—by P. Turner Bone—*Macmillan*—$3.00.

HILL-TOP TALES—by Dan McCowan—*Macmillan*—$3.50.

HERE are two delightful books by old-timers which share the virtue of being in no way limited in interest to contemporaries or near successors in time. On the contrary, they may be read with delight and interest by all Canadians for they are on-the-spot records of places and people with names which have been incorporated into the history of the country, more particularly the West. The books vary greatly in scope and enterprise but both possess a heartiness and wholesomeness which seem to set them far apart from the pettiness of more recent chronicles. The clean winds and crisp air of the Rockies are of their essence.

The late Turner Bone's story is a fascinatingly intimate account of the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway in both West and East. A clear-headed, technically trained young Scot, he came to Canada in 1882, and throughout his subsequent and successful career he possessed that capacity for retention of memories of men and events which seems to be almost a distinctive characteristic of his generation. Names, places and events are amazingly catalogued without once slackening the pace of the narrative; thus it is that his chapters on Toronto and Montreal rival in interest the more stirring Western episodes of surveying, bridge-building and the laying of steel through the mountains.

It may come as news to many younger Canadians that not only did the timber for the early C.P.R. Western construction come from the United States but that the steel was fabricated in Germany. "Krupp C.P.R. Steel. 1883" was moulded on the rails in relief and the author reports that until comparatively recently some of these rails were doing duty on more remote sidings. But it is perhaps the great march of names which lends the most fascination to the young engineer's story. Among the first personalities he encountered was H. S. Holt, a name requiring no further embroidery to Canadians; there was also Tom Holt who had the refreshing manner of referring to his distinguished brother as "the great I am".

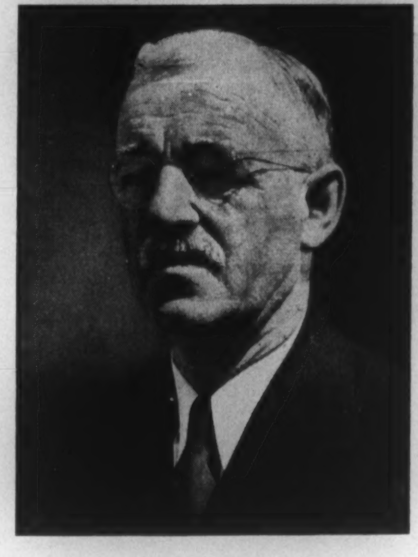


P. TURNER BONE

To select at random from the many, we encounter "William MacKenzie from Kirkfield" and "Dan Mann", both of whom were engaged on various aspects of the C.P.R. construction and who later acquired not only titles but left a very definite personal mark on the Canadian railway structure. There is also Sam Steele of the Mounted Police and the Turners (cousins of the author) after whom the Turner Valley was named. And last but not least is a person who became a stately and beloved ecclesiastical figure. " . . . . as a rodman, I had a young man named Derwyn Trevor Owen. And that young man since became (the late) Archbishop Owen of Toronto and Primate of All Canada".

While there has been no dearth of writing by very distinguished contributors about the early railway days of Canada, Turner Bone's book is a valuable and welcome addition to the saga. A story of hard work, hard but enjoyable living, enterprise and zest for life, it somehow contrives to create the impression that all the opportunities for success in Canada did not end in the eighties. Perhaps they are still here in the forties of the succeeding century.

The sage of Banff, the well-known naturalist Dan McCowan, writes in a somewhat quieter vein, yet his recollections of the old days are not lacking in life or action. Indians, bad characters, Chinese, Mounties and assorted characters are all there but over their various violences the author contrives to draw an air of glamor. More than the characters of the book, however, its distinctive note is the deep love and appreciation which the writer has for the mountain country in which he has made his home for many years. These twenty-four tales will be enjoyed by many Canadians, including even those whose experiences of the Rockies has been limited to a fairly brief train journey.



DAN McCOWAN

Home In The West

By HARRY BOYLE

GREEN FIELDS AFAR—by Clara and J. E. Middleton—*Ryerson*—$1.50.

AT THE HEAD of the stairs in my grandmother's house there stood a golden vase with fragile, wax flowers protected from the elements by a great, glass jar. No matter what went on in the way of house-cleaning or fuss, they remained delicately pure. "The Green Fields Afar" has that same quality.

Clara Middleton has related to her husband a great adventure in simple understatements. She was reared in a practical home in London, Ontario, of modest means where much of the routine was household chores and sleep and church on Sunday.

She was ready to go with her husband to settle in the American West, not because there was an adventuring spirit in her but simply because he wanted to go. She dismisses in one short paragraph, the loss of a baby son, a million bedbugs in the cabin and a nephew ill with smallpox.

Moving to Alberta they homesteaded, building a house and pioneering in the truest sense. The pages are filled with the homely happenings of daily life and there are no heroics. The reader will have the feeling that the early life and upbringing of the girl shielded her from a great deal. Discussing the neighborhood bachelors who used to visit, she said, "None of them ever brought a flask. I never saw one of them drunk, or even a little 'lighted'."

"Green Fields Afar" is a strange contrast with Bob Edwards or Paddy Nolan or the legendary Peter McGonigle, but it's still important. It tells a story, often overshadowed in history by the spectacular, of the quiet determination of the "settled" folks who came not so much for adventure as for homemaking.

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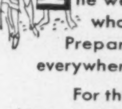

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learn we know where we stand: We have progressed further along the road to spiritual
than any other people in any other land. Perfection of the human, of our government has
But, because we know the facts, our reforms have been progressive, made with concern for the
the few. We have accomplished this by virtue of our beliefs in the rights, worth, dignity and
as individuals. To the forces at work on undermining democracy . . . those who promise
can appraise their glibness, and say: Judging by the morals of government and living
elsewhere, we are one of the most fortunate people on the face of the globe. Through our
reason of conscience, we can determine the worth of our democracy . . . work towards bett
cratic means: The only methods acceptable to our collective conscience. Whatever the err
we know that the idea of the state governing our every move, thought and word from dawn
to all good men. Just so long as we throttle no press, radio or publisher from printing or
are to read and hear . . . just so long as our conscience and reason are fully alerted to the
our democracy, and NOT ONE DAY LONGER, we can retain that great right that is

FREEDOM OF KNOWLEDGE.

No. 6 of a series on
the people of Canada,

UNITED DISTI
VANCOUVER, B. C.,

THE BOOKSHELF

General For A Night

By J. E. PARSONS

THE PURSUIT OF ROBERT EMMET—by Helen Landreth—*McGraw-Hill*—*$4.75.*

"MY friends, I die in peace, and with sentiments of universal love and kindness toward all men." Such were the last words of Robert Emmet, one of Ireland's greatest national heroes, whose life story is now made public for the first time.

"The Pursuit of Robert Emmet" is not a novel, nor can it be called a study in biography. Rather is it a compressed political history of Ireland from 1778 to 1803, a subjugated Ireland inspired by the American experiment on the west and the French experiment on the east, an ill-starred Ireland which, at a time when an unscrupulous leader was her greatest need, could produce only a young man of the most pitiful ingenuousness. The burning theme of the book is an *exposé*, buttressed by secret-service documents, of the ruthlessness of a vicious imperial policy, which not only permitted but planned the selection and exploitation of Robert Emmet in order to suppress all hopes of home government in the Emerald Isle.

At the age of twelve Robert Emmet conceived the idea of laying down his life for his country, and never relinquished this aim, to which the British government gave full cooperation. Son of the well-to-do State Physician of Ireland, he grew up in a society seething with reformers and informers, and never learned to distinguish the one from the other. It was his tragic fate to believe everyone to be as trustworthy and scrupulous as himself.

Expelled from Trinity College in Dublin because of his political beliefs, he associated himself with the United Irishmen and became a member of its Executive Committee, whose every move was sedulously noted and reported by British spies. The Committee negotiated for assistance with the French government; even there England had her spies who transmitted everything to the head of the secret-service. Emmet and his associates toured all Ireland drumming up support for a new attempt to liberate the country; spies reported every development. One cannot help but admire the extreme serenity of any man who lives in a house of cards built on shifting sands and never for a moment seems to doubt that he dwells in the greatest of security.

When on July 23, 1803, everything appeared to be in readiness for his insurrection, Emmet put on a splendid general's uniform of green and gold, with cream breeches, and placed himself at the head of three hundred men armed mainly with pikes, with the storming of Dublin Castle their immediate and ambitious objective. When he had covered a few blocks, his strength had fallen to forty or fifty, and by the time he reached Patrick Street he could boast of only fourteen or fifteen men. Here he halted and addressed the people on the street. "Turn out, my boys, now is your time for liberty. Liberty, my boys. Turn out, turn out." The appeal was vain. Emmet went into hiding in the mountains, and was apprehended a month later. His trial was a concerted attempt to deny him a martyrdom and to insure that he died in disgrace. He was twenty-five when he was executed.

Author Landreth spent eight years of research in preparing this book, which is both decisively documented and ferociously footnoted.

MARYA MANNES

More Confusion

By THADDEUS KAY

MESSAGE FROM A STRANGER—by Marya Mannes—*Macmillan*—*$3.25.*

THIS novel opens with a description of what it feels like to be dead. Many readers will think that it ought to have ended there, too, which is rather too bad, because when Miss Mannes can bring herself to consider just people she writes well and penetratingly. The opening line: "I died on November 12, 1946, in New York City, after a brief illness," is an unfortunate choice because the author repeatedly breaks the continuity of what is essentially a simple, human story with a hackneyed and obtrusive the-dead-remain-with-us-in-spirit device which could mean something only to a spiritualist. There is also some weird and wholly unnecessary political and racial philosophizing which is right out of Henry Wallace.

The book could have been written straight, or even as a deathbed recollection if the straightforward method is too old-fashioned, and emerged as a fresh and discerning account of the life of an intelligent American poetess during the last couple of decades. Olivia Baird, the poetess, is a girl from a "good" American family who marries first a Jewish Communist and then an Episcopalian banker, has a pair of better than average children, and between all this enjoys a number of love affairs, notably one with her publisher, who is the grand passion of her life. That she spends a good deal more time in bed, and with more people than the average poetess, is beside the point. She comes alive as a human being and her relationships, and her reactions to them, are competently portrayed.

What spoils the story is the fantastic mechanical device of its telling, which allows Olivia not only to penetrate the thoughts of those she has left behind but to hold conversations with them. Miss Mannes is also against Communism and against anti-Communism. She says of one character that "He had the average American's pathological hatred of Communism," but she doesn't explain why it is pathological to hate something which is out to destroy you. She is apparently against anti-Semitism, but the two children of her story are never able quite to make up their minds whether they are against it too or merely sorry for being half-Jewish.

Taking Time Out

Writers in the old days used to find their material in the everyday lives of everyday people; some do today. But too many spoil unquestioned gifts of observation and analysis, and the telling of a good story, by the wholly unnecessary addition of a Message. Many — in fact, most — good books have had messages, but it wasn't necessary to call time out to deliver them.

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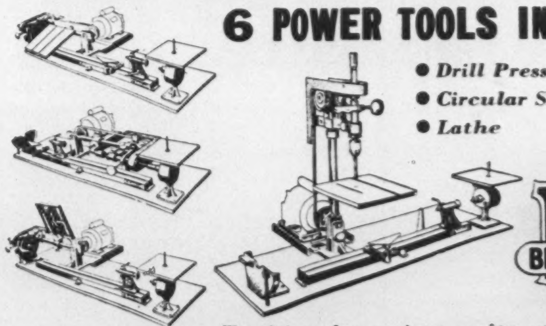

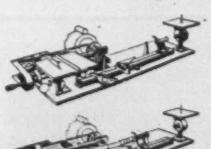

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THE FILM PARADE

Cecil B. DeMille's Latest Film And Mark Hellinger's Last One

By MARY LOWREY ROSS

CECIL B. DeMILLE is now sixty-six years of age and has been making screen-epics since 1913. No one in the business knows better how to pay out $5 million on a single film and reel it all back into the box office in record time. Nobody is more tireless in period research, and nobody better at crowding the screen with energy and spectacle. It is possible, however, to admire Mr. DeMille for all these large and lively qualities without greatly admiring his pictures; and while one is bound to be impressed by the DeMille authority in handling a crowd of a thousand extras within a single frame, it isn't much fun to watch if you don't happen to like crowds.

A story about an English girl banished into slavery in pre-revolutionary America was all that was needed to set the DeMille imagination racing. What it finally evolved was "The Unconquered" with Paulette Goddard as the beautiful slave and Gary Cooper as the soldier who picks her up at a quick sale. After that it was just a matter of arranging fights, massacres, and rescues, with Paulette changing hands dizzily from moment to moment, so that sometimes Gary Cooper had her, and sometimes the villain (Howard da Sylva) and sometimes the Indians, led by Boris Karloff. In between there were the high points of the picture—Paulette taking the bath that seems to be obligatory in DeMille pictures; Paulette lashed to a stake and writhing piteously in anticipation of torture; Paulette and Gary Cooper being pursued by six canoe-loads of whooping Indians and disappearing over a fifty-foot cataract. Foolishness on such an exorbitant scale is certainly arresting, and like it or not one must admire Mr. DeMille because he can still whip up this sort of lunatic frenzy and enjoy it, and even, as far as one can tell, believe in it.

Nobody in the cast of "The Unconquered" makes much pretence at acting but they do go through their parts with considerable gameness of spirit. I have sometimes wondered how grown-up actors in their late thirties and forties can persuade themselves to dress up and play Indian like crazy-headed children. However, Adolf Menjou supplies the key to the situation in a sentence from his recent autobiography. "After all I was making $2,000 a week," he writes, "and an actor can afford to play very bad parts for that kind of money."

Method Defeated Intentions

"Naked City" is the last picture produced by the late Mark Hellinger, and in making it his clear intention was to include nothing less than the whole of his wonder-city. Nothing was to be left undisclosed and every aspect, including the commonplace, must be revealed at a maximum intensity. "Naked City" was to be Everyman's New York, animated by every kind of life and bursting with every degree of energy. What it turned out to be, inevitably, was Mark Hellinger's New York, photographed physically all over the place but spiritually located on Broadway.

"Naked City" begins in semi-documentary fashion with Mark Hellinger's voice on the sound track. After a little, however, the camera strays into a room where a girl has just been murdered, and from this point on the picture becomes a detailed and engrossing study of big city crime detection. Not any big city, of course, for Mark Hellinger never lost sight of his central intention. This is crime as it evolves in New York City, as it is seized on and traced by the New York Homicide Department through all the ramifications of city life, and as it seizes in turn on the imagination of New York people in subways, streets, shops and tenements.

In the end, however, Mark Hellinger's method defeated his intentions. What we get finally is little more than a key-hole glimpse of New York. The city itself is too immense and variegated a spectacle to be laid bare by one rather commonplace act of violence. "Naked City" isn't New York revealed through a flash of crime; it is a well-documented murder story, with a background of New York.

Barry Fitzgerald as the head detective carries the weight of the acting—necessarily, since he is the only experienced actor in the cast. Mr. Fitzgerald's endearing Celtic ways make him the least convincing homicide chief imaginable, but he is always wonderful to watch.

•

"You Were Meant For Me" is a remake of a sad little domestic story which appeared half a dozen years ago under the title "Orchestra Wives."

The heroine (Jeanne Crain) elopes with the fascinating band leader (Dan Dailey) who is making a one-night stand in her home-town. For a little while everything goes well but the date is the ominous 1929, and it's no surprise to the audience when all contracts are cancelled and the young people go home to live with the folks. Love on the dole, however, even the dole supplied by reasonably solvent parents, isn't a situation that Hollywood can face for very long, and after a few doleful sequences the picture gives the back of its hand to the Depression, drags Prosperity from round the corner and ends everything on a note of gay night-club life and merry syncopation.

SWIFT REVIEW

GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT. Samuel Goldwyn's film homily on the evils of anti-Semitism. The film is a good deal more earnest than it is thoughtful, but since it won the Academy Award it may be a duty to see it. With Gregory Peck, Dorothy Maguire.

SITTING PRETTY. The baby-sitting dilemma reaches the screen in a domestic comedy involving Robert Young and Maureen O'Hara. Thanks to Clifton Webb who acts as resident baby-sitter, it is often very funny.

CASS TIMBERLANE. Screen version of the Sinclair Lewis novel about the judge who married a beautiful lady ball player. Most of the Lewis satire has been sacrificed to make as much room as possible for Lana Turner. With Spencer Tracy.

TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE. The talented Hustons in a fine allegory of gold-hunting in Mexico. John Huston directs and Walter Huston stars.

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KONI-TIKI EXPEDITION

DR. THOR HEYERDAHL, leader of the famous Koni-Tiki expedition when five Norwegian explorers floated 4,200 miles by raft from Peru to Polynesia, presents the film story in Eaton Auditorium on April 9. The lecture is sponsored by the Toronto World Adventure Series.

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THE Smith College Club of Toronto is sponsoring a program by Ruth Draper, the "one-woman-theatre," in Hart House Theatre on April 5, 6 and 7. Last June Miss Draper received from Smith College the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

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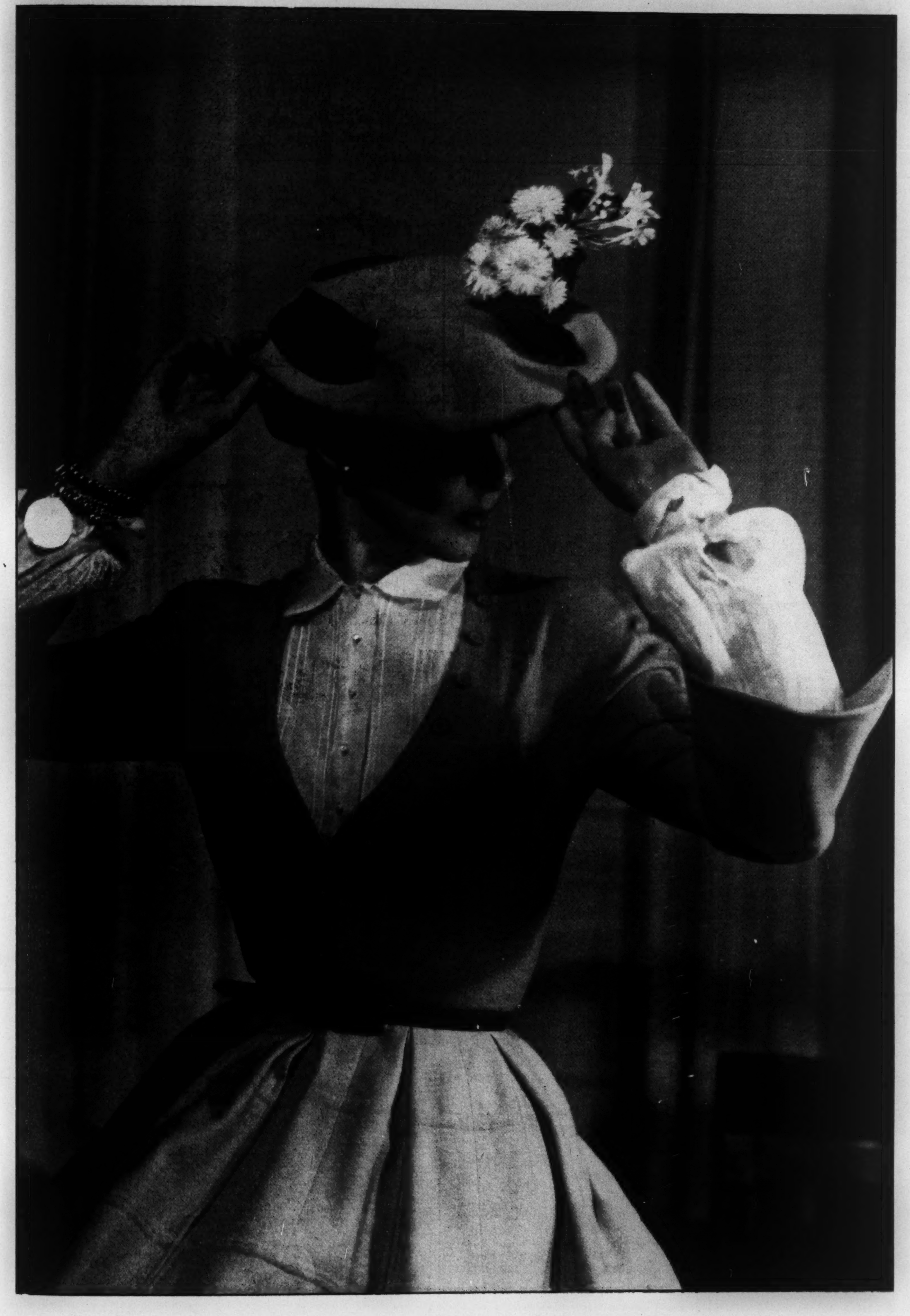

FINE LINEN, FINE RAIMENT

Paris has adopted the dickey and cuffs, not as an afterthought, but as an integral part of the dress. Sheer white handkerchief linen, overlaid with a precise pattern of hand-stitched tucks, is coupled with light blue wool in this frock by Pierre Balmain. The beret is laced with velvet, tipped with a spring nosegay.

BERNICE COFFEY, *Editor*

HEALTH

Science Attacks Arthritis and Rheumatism

By HELEN MAY WILLMOT

THE recent formation of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society brings new hope to Canada's estimated half million men, women and children suffering from some form of arthritis or rheumatism.

The arthritic and rheumatic diseases constitute one of the most important and most neglected unsolved problems facing medical science today. Because these diseases lack the drama of more swiftly acting illnesses, the fear of contagion, or the terror of cancer, the public has been slow to recognize the magnitude of the economic, social and personal problems involved and to demand widespread action.

Although no nation-wide Canadian survey has yet been completed, the extent of the problem can be estimated by statistics from other countries. In the United States, it is estimated that there are more than 6,800,000 cases of rheumatic disease. This is more than all cases of heart disease, cancer, tuberculosis and diabetes combined. This represents an economic loss of 97,200,000 days per year. In England and Wales an estimate of the economic loss caused by these diseases is provided by the records of insured workers. For the estimated 1,000,000 cases of the disease, the total cost to the whole population in terms of sick pay, lost wages and cost of medical treatment is at least the equivalent of $100,000,000 per year.

In attacking the problem in Canada, a similar technique was followed which had proved successful in the formation of the National Cancer Institute of Canada a year ago. This voluntary health organization has already stimulated research on various aspects of cancer diagnosis, control and treatment and is making an important contribution to public understanding of the cancer problem.

More than 40 persons, representing the provincial departments of health, university medical schools and national voluntary organizations interested in arthritic and rheumatic diseases, were called together in a conference at Ottawa last October by the Department of National Health and Welfare. Since that time an interim committee of ten under Dr. Wallace Graham, president of the Canadian Rheumatism Society, has been working on the details of incorporation and organizational procedure. The second session of the conference in January of this year saw the plans for incorporation completed and the objectives of the society agreed upon.

One of the many objectives of the new society is education of the public. Probably no victim of any disease is so apt to turn to patent medicines, home-made nostrums or medical quacks as the arthritic or rheumatic sufferer.

Many Varieties

Neither rheumatism or arthritis is one specific disease. The term "arthritis," meaning literally an inflammation of the joints, is used to designate a particular group of the rheumatic diseases—a broad term covering those ailments marked by inflammation of the connective tissue structures of the body, especially the muscles and joints. These rheumatic diseases — over 200 varieties have been classified to date—include the conditions known as lumbago, sciatica, neuritis, muscular rheumatism, rheumatic fever, fibrositis and many others, as well as arthritic conditions. In those types of arthritis in which there is considerable joint destruction, the victims are often in danger of crippling or deformity. Some forms of arthritis are due to a specific known cause—for example, infections by tuberculosis, or venereal disease; in many more the cause is still undetermined.

For the most part, arthritis is divided by doctors into two general groups; rheumatoid arthritis and osteo-arthritis. The former is an inflammatory process and its victims are usually younger people than those attacked by osteo-arthritis, which is described as a degenerative process.

Rheumatoid arthritis is the most damaging and insidious type. It is an inflammation of the cartilage surrounding the ends of the bone where they come together at the joints. Sometimes the onset may be a sudden flare-up and an attack on the larger joints. Often there is a low fever and the patient loses weight and generally feels below par. If uncontrolled, it may lead to fusion of the bones at the joints with ensuing deformity and end in hopeless invalidism.

Danger Signals

In both osteo—and rheumatoid arthritis, as a rule, the victim has had some advance warning—usually neglected. Off and on for some years, there may have been pains or stiffness in one or more of the larger joints; or the warning may be swelling of the hands or soreness about the joints of the fingers.

There are no specific drugs or treatments which will guarantee a cure for all types of arthritis or rheumatism. What is effective for one case may be valueless for the next. Success or failure in treating these conditions therefore depends in the first instance in correct diagnosis —and early diagnosis.

Among the new Canadian Society's more important objectives is the promotion of the idea of establishing special centres throughout Canada for the diagnosis and treatment of arthritic and rheumatic diseases. As they develop, there will be made available to the public the long-term cures which are necessary to remedy arthritic and rheumatic afflictions.

A basic difficulty is, of course, the lack of knowledge concerning the causes of these diseases. These causes can be discovered only through careful scientific research. The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society plans to assist and encourage research in our universities and research foundations.

In the meantime, the conference agreed that a tremendous amount of good could be accomplished with the present methods of treatment, given the proper facilities and the trained personnel to do the job. Unfortunately few doctors in Canada have specialized in the study of arthritis and rheumatism. The Society is concerned with the planning and development of an all-round educational program for medical practitioners, medical students, nurses, therapists, social and welfare workers and any other groups which may play an important role in the prevention and treatment of these diseases.

Canada's largest and most up-to-date arthritis centre is at the Department of Veterans' Affairs Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. In this hospital's experience, 90 per cent of

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arthritic patients can be returned to gainful occupation.

Treatment, like diagnosis, is highly specialized but some general treatment procedures are common to most arthritic conditions.

Modern treatments provide an expert and highly specialized mixture of both rest and exercise, plus other therapeutic measures. Fundamental to successful treatment is the proper understanding on the part of the patient that real recovery is a long-term procedure, not an overnight miracle.

Rest is basic and this includes mental rest as well as physical. Authorities are agreed that the mental condition of arthritics is important. Quite often patients can date their attack from some period of emotional conflict. The present day defeatist attitude of the average sufferer, who feels he is destined to bear his pain forever, must be combatted.

The necessity for rest does not contradict the need for exercise. The body requires rest, while affected joints need mild exercise to restore movement and prevent fusion or stiffening of the joints. Massage or passive exercise is important but must be properly prescribed and correctly applied. Heat therapy, using both moist and dry heat, reduces pain and also increases circulation and relaxes stiffness.

Therapy

Although many diets have in the past been prescribed for the arthritic, most medical authorities today believe that, while arthritics require plenty of good nourishing food on a well balanced diet, no dieting in itself will cure arthritis.

Gold therapy, that is the injection of certain dosages of gold salts weekly over varying periods, has proved of great value in certain cases of rheumatoid arthritis. Its use is limited by its frequent toxic effect and should only be given when close clinical and laboratory observation is possible.

One of the most persistent theories about the cause of arthritis is that it is due to a focus of infection such as infected teeth, tonsils, sinuses or other sources. Today most medical authorities do not agree that such sources are the cause of arthritic infection. However the removal of such foci of infection is usually recommended to improve general health and thus speed recovery.

In the experience of the Sunnybrook centre, group therapy, that is treatment at an arthritis centre or in a special wing rather than in a general ward or at home, is of great value in promoting morale and speeding recovery. Occupational therapy is also employed to keep muscles from degenerating and joints from stiffening.

With the general availability of such treatments, rehabilitation will become increasingly important. Many arthritics are unable to go back to the type of work they have been doing. Others, psychologically unsuited for their old job should not go back. Rehabilitation, through interviews and discussion, should start when the patient begins treatment. If it is apparent that the sufferer will have to change his former occupation, the learning of new trades and skills can start long before discharge. A complete rehabilitation service includes friendly contacts with potential employers, proper job placement and after-care supervision. If rehabilitation is efficiently conducted, almost every arthritic may look forward to resuming a useful role in the life of the community.

Unfortunately, present day facilities are hopelessly inadequate. Only a very small percentage of the total sufferers are getting such up-to-date treatment. The situation cannot be remedied overnight. The training of personnel, research into causes and the erection of modern clinics, are all long term propositions dependent upon patience, perseverance and money. The newly formed Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society cannot perform miracles, but its long-term aim in bringing adeuate treatment within the reach of every Canadian sufferer is bounded only by its finances, which are dependent upon the fluctuating generosity of private Canadians and Canadian organizations.

DECORATION

The Small Living Room

By LEONARD J. TURNER

HAS your living room that "new look"? Distinction and charm can be yours though your room be small.

The newer trends in living room wallpapers are toward large floral and conventional designs. Some patterns are extravagantly spread—or appear so at first glance—and seem intended for larger and more pretentiously-dimensioned rooms. However, these gay and lovely patterns may be used in the smaller living rooms with excellent results.

There is no interior decorating code of rites that requires you to paper all four walls of any room with any one paper. Why not make the fireplace wall the show-place for a large picture, mirror or groupings of small pictures in matching frames? Should your room have a fireplace, paint that one wall in a good imitation of Wedgwood blue (Prussian blue in white, with a dash of red and a spot of yellow added) either in semi-gloss or without sheen.

For the ceiling a delicate pink or rose would be in harmony. The three remaining walls would receive the gayest and loveliest of the new wallpapers—with compatible or complementary colors in the design, of course. The woodwork would be painted in the same color as the plain wall, while the ceiling moulding—if any—would be painted the same as the ceiling. The general effect of such a room treatment is to make the room appear considerably larger than it actually is by measurement. Several variations for the color of the painted wall will occur to you when you see the newer wallpaper patterns.

In Lieu of Fireplace

Should your room be without a fireplace, then choose a wall with a window for the painted treatment. Hangings for the window are optional when the modern look is desired in the living room. Plain curtains without side-hangings are almost as attractive as when the extra draperies are used.

Another method of adding the "new look" to your small living room is to turn the key-board of the piano to the wall or one corner of the room! Exactly that! Then have a glass company attach a plain—though heavy—mirror to the back of the piano and place a coffee-table or fern on a small stand or table before the mirror. The reflection of the room in the mirror is deceptive and adds an exciting interest to a small or a large living room!

So much stress has been laid on color harmony for the smaller rooms that it has caused many persons to shy away from large and decorative designs in wallpaper. When the one wall has received the "plain treatment" to harmonize with the furnishings of the room, one can be daring enough to suppress the emotions usually felt toward conventional wallpaper designs and really decorate the three walls.

Should you be a light-green addict, the ceiling can be done in a sea-foam green with a darker shade of green on the painted wall. Or perhaps you would prefer the green ceiling and wall in one color or complementary colors such as pink and green; mauve and yellow; or beige and pale blue; particularly if there is much strong and vivid color in the wallpaper.

New Stylings

If you wish to give the "new look" to your rooms don't use yesteryear's stylings. You can easily make your living room worth a second and third glance when variations of wall treatment are considered before painting and papering the walls and woodwork. Compare your present style of decoration with what a large-patterned wallpaper can do for the room in which you live and have your being. There is an inspirational uplift to even the small and apparently crowded living room when a large and gaily patterned wallpaper is used on the three walls that are now so depressing. The "new look" is worth a try in any home.

Photo, courtesy of Coro

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The Old and the New

By JOHN H. YOCOM

TWO musical triumphs distinguished pre-Easter week in Toronto. The one, the Mendelssohn Choir's performance of "St. Matthew Passion," was a quarter-century-old tradition; the other, the recital of the Solway String Quartet, was a formal Toronto debut.

The Mendelssohn Choir has established many fine traditions but the noblest is its annual presentation of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion." Once again for two nights the choir gave a highly competent version under its illustrious conductor, Sir Ernest MacMillan, who interpreted the oratorio with his usual insight and directed with skill and imagination. Sir Ernest seeks and usually gets the supreme effectiveness of his massive chorus, orchestra and soloists. No listener (and a large percentage of the audience attends year after year) expects innovations, not does he hear them. Many know where the brilliant and formidable passages, or signficant details needing emphasis, will come. In jammed Convocation Hall last week many followed scores of their own.

The singing, for the most part, was sound and compelling, marred only by a few forced notes from the soloists. Several this year were in leading roles for the first time but still they did a job that looked like that of old hands. There were some veterans, like tenor William Morton and contralto Nellie Smith. Morton as the evangelist sang his narrative passages—a role of big dimensions in singing time alone—with intense and direct eloquence. Understandably, tonal roughnesses might creep in during such a task. Nellie Smith in the contralto arias and recitatives was movingly expressive in tonal beauty and sincerity. Phillip MacGregor, a guest U.S. baritone, sang the Christus with resourcefulness and sympathy but a trifle too even an interpretation. Some points calling for high feeling were kept subdued.

New-comer Lois Marshall, gifted young Toronto soprano, performed a reflective soprano role with such poignancy that at times (e.g., "For love my Saviour now is dying") it rose almost to heights of anguish. We reserve any criticism of an over-dramatic presentation, for Miss Marshall's tonal purity, diction and projection of a mystical emotion were the evening's remarkable features.

Bach's moving work is full of instrumental color, double choir climaxes and inspirational melody. The M.C. caught them all. The choruses were sung with confidence and discipline. The orchestra, including Greta Kraus at the harpsichord and Fred Silvester at the organ, furnished a complementary accompaniment and added emotional tone coloring. One notable passage we shall long remember: violinist Elie Spivak and other strings' playing a section with the contralto aria, "Have mercy, Lord, on me," was polished chamber music.

A Genuine Quartet

Before a capacity audience in Hart House Theatre that included such musical personalities as Sir Ernest MacMillan, Boris Hambourg, Samuel Hersenhoren, Elie Spivak, Kathleen Parlow and Paul Scherman, the newly formed Solway String Quartet gave a performance that received the warmest ovation. The members are Maurice Solway, founder and first violinist, Jack Groob, second violinist, Robert Warburton, viola, and Marcus Adeney, cellist. The program had generous amounts of interest and solid music—Haydn's Quartet, Op. 54, No. 1, Kreisler's Quartet in A minor, "Poem" by Healey Willan ("the Slow Movement for my as yet unwritten quartet"), Howard Cable's Four Newfoundland Sketches, and John Weinzweig's String Quartet No. 1.

It was soon apparent in the performance of the Haydn that the players have the unity of spirit and the subtle balance of dynamics which distinguish a genuine string quartet from four musicians trying to get together. The group showed a unit richness and lustre of tone; its rhythmic sense and coordination were clean with nary the suspicion of bogging down; its nuances were magnificent. The Finale of the Haydn was played with exciting bravura. Above these there were the all encompassing technique and authority patent in their playing. Even in the Kreisler with its emotional Viennese elements, they never gave way to easy effects and interpretation was kept very sparing, although strong and thrilling. The fame for precision and ensemble which preceded the Solway quartet here (S.N., Mar. 13) seems to have been well earned.

It is clear that this quartet can make a notable contribution to chamber music in Canada (of which there is a great need at present), especially in the performance of contemporary Canadian works. Howard Cable's Newfoundland Sketches were succinct, ballad-like pieces, lucid and rhythmical but not always free from fugal banalities and mostly suitable as "filler" items on a program. But John Weinzweig's Quartet had a sturdier structure, melodic contrast in the movements, a fine use of color, and an impressive instrumental unity. It was a stimulating concert. One looks forward to further appearances of these brilliant musicians.

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The final concert of the Conservatory's Wednesday Five O'Clock series was given by the noted pianist Lubka Kolessa in a program of Bach's Fantasia in C minor and three sonatas—Mozart's C major, Chopin's B flat minor, and Beethoven's C major. Madame Kolessa played the entire program with superlative insight and technical brilliance but her Chopin had a special animation that could be taken to heart by everyone.

Sir Ernest MacMillan and T. S. O. members will relinquish their usual fee for the final concert of the season, April 20, when all proceeds are to go to the orchestra's Retirement Fund. Marian Grudeff, young Toronto pianist, will be solo artist. It is hoped to raise at least $3,000. Within the past 15 months $3,500 has been expended.

The Toronto Music Lovers Club presents two Saturday matinee (4 p.m.) musicales in Heliconian Hall by famed cellist Boris Hambourg, a Sonata program on April 3 with pianist Max Pirani and a solo program on April 24.

At the final concert for this season of the Forest Hill Village Community Centre Concert and Theatre Series on April 12, the artist will be Marcus Adeney, cellist. His program will include John Ireland's Sonata for Cello and Piano, Leo Barkin at the piano. Vocalists Freda Antrobus and Arthur Bartlett will sing solo and duet groups, including the specially commissioned song cycle, based on poems by Hilaire Belloc, by Robert Fleming.

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RECORDS

The Mass in B Minor

By JOHN L. WATSON

ONE of the most important events of the musical year is the recording by R.C.A.-Victor of Bach's B Minor Mass in its entirety. In these days, when it is the custom of most commercial organizations to sail pretty close to the wind of popular opinion, it is quite wonderful to find someone with sufficient daring to take a chance on the production (presumably at enormous expense) of a work of gigantic proportions and rather limited appeal, simply because it happens to be one of the greatest musical utterances ever penned by the greatest of musical geniuses.

I suspect that Mr. Robert Shaw, the leading light of Victor's musical department, is a gentleman of forceful character as well as a musician of talent. He has been responsible for the finest recordings of choral music that have been produced on this continent in recent years and this performance of the B Minor Mass is his masterpiece. Assisting him, Mr. Shaw has Anne McKnight and June Gardner, sopranos; Lydia Summers, alto; Lucius Metz, tenor; Paul Metthen, bass; John Barrows, *corno da caccia;* Robert Bloom and Bert Gassman, *oboe d'amore;* William Vacchiano, trumpet; and Oscar Shumsky, violin; with the Victor Chorale and Orchestra. The work is recorded on thirty-four twelve-inch sides in two albums, DM 1145 and DM 1146.

This is the first all-American recording of the B Minor Mass; the last pressing was made in England by Albert Coates and is now technically obsolete. Mr. Shaw has gone to great pains to make his orchestra "authentic." He has pared it down to eighteenth century size and included the *oboe d'amore*, the *corno da caccia* (hunting horn) and the wonderful *clarino* trumpets of Bach's own day. He has assembled a group of competent soloists and a superbly trained and beautifully balanced choir. With this material he has produced a sensitive and well disciplined performance which is neither stodgy nor theatrical but wholly satisfying in every respect.

Bach completed his B Minor Mass in about 1737 but it was not performed in its entirety until 1835, when the scattered pages of manuscript were assembled and edited by the Bach Gesellschaft. There are any number of reasons why a sturdy Protestant like Bach should have set to music the Roman Catholic Mass. Apart from the fact that it was in the composer's interest to gain the favor of Friedrich August, the Catholic Duke of Saxony, there is a spiritual and artistic unity in the form of the Mass that must have appealed to the musical architect in Bach. Some critics will go even farther and suggest that the Mass is Bach's fervent plea for a united Christianity. Whatever its purpose, there is certainly no more eloquent expression of human faith and divine inspiration in the literature of any religion than the subline and glorious music of Bach.

Having made this initial step, it should not be too difficult for Mr. Shaw and his colleagues to perform the logical sequel—a complete recording of the St. Matthew Passion.

Two Are Familiar

Columbia has brought us three symphonies this month: two of them well known, the third rather less so. The familiar ones are the Schubert Eighth ("Unfinished") and the Tschaikowsky Fifth (or *"Quasi-pathétique*). The two symphonies, written a little more than half a century apart epitomize the whole development of the Romantic Movement, the one representing the opening bud, the other the rather overblown flower.

The Schubert Symphony is "Unfinished" in name only. Although it contains only two movements, there is no reason to suppose that the addition of another two would have made it any more perfect. The present reading, by Bruno Walter and the Philadelphia Orchestra, might, I suppose, be called a definitive one. It is superior, in interpretation at any rate, to the Koussevitzky pressing of last year. The recording, too, is excellent (D195).

The Fifth is probably the best—and certainly the most impressive—of Tschaikowsky's six symphonies. Midway between the Fourth and Sixth, in feeling as well as in time of composition, it has neither the joviality of its predecessor nor the unbearable melancholy of its successor. On the other hand, it has more power, more symmetry and more intestinal fortitude than either of them. The new recording is by the Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Paul Kletski (a new name to me). The performance is more conservative than most (cf. the Stokowsky readings) and the recording is full-bodied and resonant.

The less familiar symphony is the First, in D Major, by Antonin Dvorak.. Owing largely to the bewildering popularity of the Fifth ("From the New World"), the other symphonies have remained in relative obscurity, which is a pity, for they are full of good music. The First is a pleasant enough affair, crammed with captivating melodies, engaging rhythms and unexpected changes of mood. At best, the recording by Erich Leinsdorf and the Cleveland Orchestra (D200) is no more than adequate—at worst it is fuzzy and erratic.

In the new Victor album, entitled "Beecham Favorites" (DM 1141) the eminent English conductor leads the London Philharmonic in the Overture to "Prince Igor" by Borodin and excerpts from "Les Troyens" by Berlioz. We can only assume, from the title of the album, that this particular music was selected because Sir Thomas happened to like it. Now, the disadvantage of this sort of thing is that Sir Thomas Beecham's favorites may not be *your* favorites—they are certainly not mine! The Overture to "Prince Igor", which, in actual fact, was strung together by that monumental bore, Glazounov, is probably the least amiable part of an indifferent opera. The "Royal Hunt and Storm" and the "Trojan March", taken from an opera that is deservedly little known, are vulgar and pretentious. On the other hand, both these unfortunate episodes are given absolutely first-rate performances, in the best Beecham tradition, and the recording is splendid. An exasperating example of "conspicuous waste"!

For a long time we have needed a new recording of Beethoven's F Minor Sonata, Opus 57 (the "Appassionata") and now Columbia has filled the need with a splendid performance by Rudolf Serkin, in Album D199. Mr. Serkin seems to have inherited the mantle of Schnabel and to be wearing it with good grace. His performance of this mighty pianoforte sonata, one of the greatest in all the literature of music, is brusque and businesslike and there is brilliance and inspiration to spare. The recording is admirable.

Two compatriots, with widely varying points of view, are paired on Victor 10-1355, on which Jascha Heifetz plays his own transcriptions of "Daisies" and "Oriental Sketch" by Rachmaninoff and "Gavotte" and "March" by Prokofieff. Heifetz plays them all very well but they sound no better for having been transcribed.

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CUISINE

Pans, Yes -- But How Many?

By RONALD McRAE

THE heading to this little opus is frankly an eye-catcher and a come-on. Because most certainly, if one were not lured into facing certain facts, I fear my following remarks would be swiftly passed over. Like perhaps, sock-mending, which in the manner of a horrible fungus seems to grow and grow in the dark depths of the sewing basket.

We boys and girls of the skillet like to get together and swap recipes, and there is a most satisfactory element of justifiable pride in alone knowing the source of some presumably unobtainable morsel, be it solid or liquid. However, that same pride can be badly bruised when some scorpion posing as a helpful friend roots through one's stock of pots and pans when the evening is proceeding merrily over cooking and drinks. Somehow those enamel pots and pans, once gay with colored edges and handles, now look on second thought grimier and less appetizing in their cracked and chipped condition than one ever realized before. True, they are old, but habit has made them loved and essential for certain jobs that they alone seemed to do to perfection.

That, my friends, when squarely faced, is a lot of hooey. And so if we buy new ones—and we certainly shall tomorrow—what should we buy? I might add to allay any sneaking suspicion, that this article is from the heart and not subsidized by any world cartel or local industry. What I am about to suggest as the minimum amount of equipment needed in the pots-and-pans department of the kitchen is just what I like for myself, and would look for on a buying spree in the shops.

Actually for definite reasons it boils down to a very simple set-up. I, personally, like heavy enamel (and the best is the cheapest in the long run) for, among other things, egg and milk recipes. For vegetables and meats and pastry—stewed, boiled or baked—I'll take aluminum, very heavy. It's expensive, but a grand heat conductor. And of course some iron vessels, among them a covered iron pot for boiling fish wrapped in muslin, joints, lamb (with caper sauce), beef (with horseradish) and of course ham—God's and the hog-raisers' gift to Canada.

A Dutch oven is a pride-making article to own and so are lots of different size black iron frying pans permanently married to the right fitting covers kept in the right place *all* the time. I can't help mentioning right here another accessory, wooden spoons in different sizes. I'm crazy about them. They are most kind to the surface of pots and pans, never scarring or scratching and are such a lovely color when worn down by scrubbing.

Last, but far from least, a pressure cooker. Here speaks a complete devotee of pressure cooking. Even admitting my amateur status and limited experience, there are no hazards or tricks to switching from all former methods to pressure cooking. Follow the simple instructions, use the wealth of recipes carefully and only see the cover is on tight, the steam vent free and watch the timing. You cut the effort over a hot stove each week by hours.

My readers may be baffled when this little effort turns up under the head of cuisine, but what, I ask you, is more important in the culinary arts than the utensils involved? However, just to show it can be worked both ways I shall toss in one of my favorite recipes. It's fairly well-known, but not hackneyed, and it will give you a chance to use practically all the kinds of utensils discussed here.

Beef Stroganoff

1½ lbs. lean round steak
2 tbsps. olive oil
1 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. salt
1 lb. mushrooms
1 cup sour cream
½ tsp. paprika
½ tsp. pepper

Trim all fat and gristle from the meat and cut in strips against the grain 1 inch by ½ inch. Heat olive oil in frying (iron) pan. Add meat and cook slowly covered for 35 minutes turning occasionally. Add mushrooms cut in halves and cook 10 minutes more. If the pan dries out add more oil. Place meat and mushrooms in top of *enamel double boiler*. To juices in frying pan smooth in butter and flour. Add sour cream, etc. Mix till smooth but don't boil. Pour over beef and mushrooms in double boiler and cook 20 minutes more. Can be put aside, reheated in a sufficiently large *aluminum* pot and served any time. Serve with rice boiled 17 minutes.

• •

THE NEW LOOK

LADIES once again are ladies
Robed, and veiled and flounced of skirt—
But will this new trend prevent them
"Dishing up the dirt"?

Will they, when they get together,
Sheathe the claws . . . discard the knife . . .
Hmmmmm! I fear that now, with hatpins,
This is *still* a chancey life!

MONA GOULD

TROUBLE-MAKERS

Europe's Sinister Women

By WALTER HAYES

OH, THESE troublesome women of Europe! Into the spotlight now comes a pretty, fair-haired and dangerous person, Hertta Kuusinen. She looks 30; she might be 40. And in a wide windowed, three-roomed flat in Helsinki she is doing Stalin's work in Finland.

Hertta is chairman of the Communist Party in the Finnish Parliament. She is also the wife of Yrjoe Leino, leader of the Finnish Communists and Minister of the Interior.

Like 53-year-old Anna Pauker—another woman trouble-maker who trod the revolutionary path to become Foreign Minister in Rumania's Communist-dominated Government—she has reached the heights through the dark alleys of the underground plot and plan. Like Anna Pauker, political upheaval is bringing her into the world's headlines. They are two of a kind, these women.

Hertta's father, Otto Kuusinen, started out as a Social Democrat, jumped on a Communist band-wagon and ultimately became leader of the Finnish Reds. He went to Russia and became one of the secretaries of the notorious Comintern; he was rewarded with a post of greater importance. In 1939, when the Russians set up a puppet Government in Finland, Otto became the boss. Today he is the President of the Finno-Karelian Soviet Republic—a reward for good and faithful service.

When Papa Kuusinen went to Russia Hertta, then only just out of school, went with him. But Russia was too tame for Hertta, and she returned secretly to her country at a time when Communists were not too popular, and became an agitator.

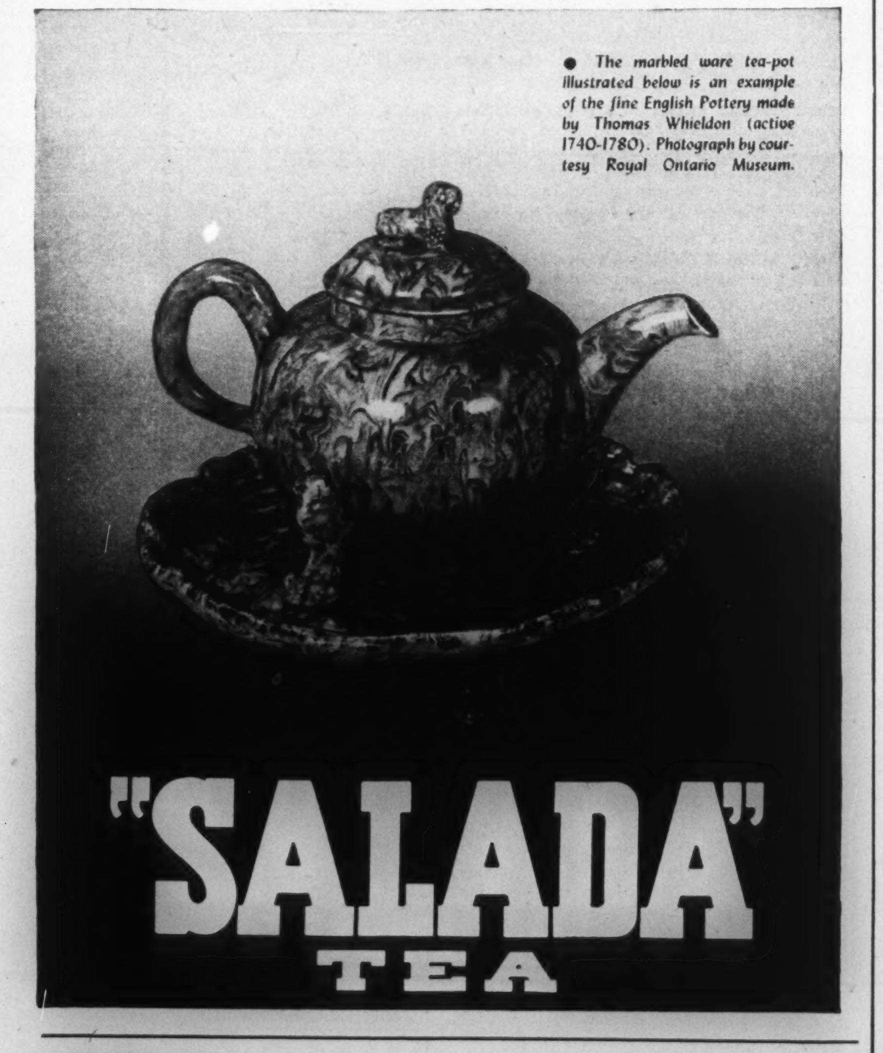
The Strong Woman

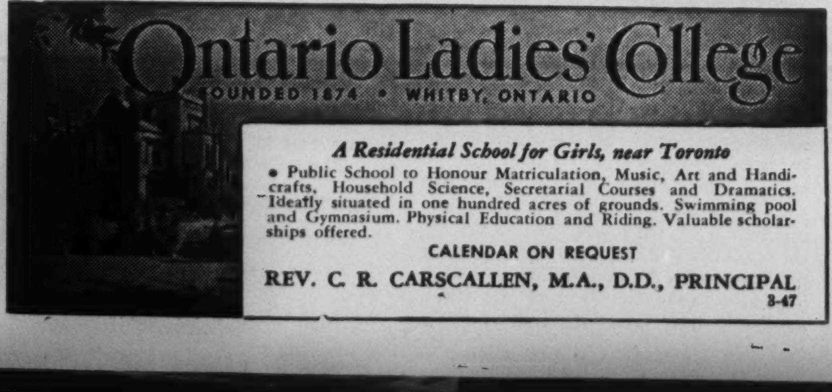
Anna Pauker travelled the same path. For ten years from 1924 she was also an underground agitator for the outlawed Communist Party. In 1935 Hertta was arrested and sent to prison for five years. Anna went to prison in 1936 for the same offence. She got ten years; served five.

When Hertta came out of jail—more determined in her beliefs than ever before — she taught languages in a Helsinki school. Even Communists have to eat. In between lectures she managed to distil some more propaganda, and in 1941 she went back to jail where she stayed until 1944. She married Yrjoe Leino in 1945. It was the perfect marriage.

After the assault on Finland the Communists were able to come out into the open. Yrjoe Leino became Minister of the Interior and started to organize the secret police — the first step taken by all good dictators.

Today the future of Hertta Kuusinen is in question—and no one is making any bets. Anna came back to Rumania with the Red Army and achieved Cabinet rank. But Hertta may prefer to remain the strong woman behind the strong man.


• The marbled ware tea-pot illustrated below is an example of the fine English Pottery made by Thomas Whieldon (active 1740-1780). Photograph by courtesy Royal Ontario Museum.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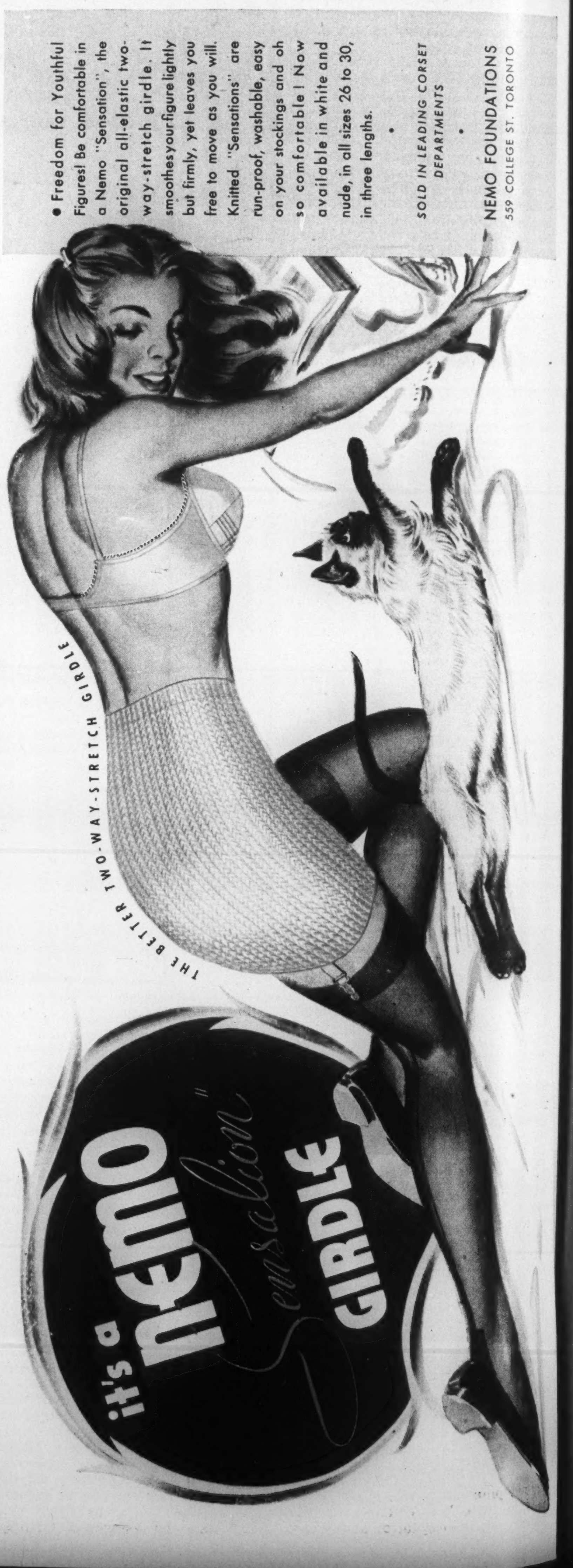
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GARDENING

The Inexorable Laws

By VINIA HOOGSTRATEN

THE average non-gardening person pictures a gardener as a contended man, leaning on a hoe handle and talking over the back fence. Or as a lady picking long-stemmed blooms and putting them gacefully into a basket on her arm. This is erroneous. A far more realistic picture shows the gardener, either sex, as an embattled figure, armed to the teeth with insecticides, blowers, keep-off-the-grass signs, and a dozen other weapons, making a Custer's last stand against the host of creatures hell-bent on wrecking his flower beds.

Of course, by far the worst enemies a garden has are insects. There are effective ways of dealing with them. Nicotine sulphate kills most kinds, and if it doesn't, then lead arsenate probably will. But, unfortunately, that deals only with the insects that are already there and has no effect whatever on the ones that won't be there until tomorrow. The main trouble with insects is that there are so many of them.

The borers are also insects, but so horrible that they rate a paragraph to themselves. The only times I feel that perhaps china-painting would be a more rewarding hobby is when something has a borer (or, more probably, borers) in it. If they are in the roots of a plant, the plant is doomed and you haul the whole thing out and destroy it, borers and all. If they are in the stems, you start an unwilling big game hunt until either you or the borer is prostrate.

Naturalists claim that the tunnels and mounds made by ants are an engineering phenomenon. Whether or not this is true, there is no question that what they can do to a lawn is phenomenal.

Not counting insects, the three worst menaces a garden faces are dogs, children and husbands with step-ladders.

As an admirer of dogs, I stand second to none. Two wags and I am lost. I can't resist them. But I wish they wouldn't dig in flower-beds. It's pretty disheartening to go out to thin out the roots of some delicate perennial, only to find that Rover McSnarly from up the street has been there before you and buried the thigh-bone of a Brontosaurus. So far as the delicate perennial is concerned, you have no further worries.

And you can bet your last dime that if any dog within ten blocks is going to chase a cat he will chase it through your nasturtiums. Dogs also find a shady bed of violets or similar plants a wonderfully cool and refreshing spot to nap during hot spells.

Among the smaller forms of animal life we have mice, moles and rabbits. I aged ten years last spring when I caught a small brown bunny sampling the contents of my flats, which were "hardening off" in the yard.

And for berries and seeds, we have birds.

Nimble Leapers

The more or less unavoidable juxtaposition of flower beds and fences is the cause of a lot of gardener's moans. Only about three per cent of the damage caused by falling, jumping, slipping, or being pushed off fences into flower beds is intentional, but that is small comfort to the chief mourner.

A young man once leaped nimbly over my fence to retrieve a ball and impress his girl. It was an impressive leap, all right, but in passing he kicked the head off the only flowering stalk on my favorite Iris. I don't know what his girl thought, but what I thought was plenty.

There's something mysterious about the attraction a tulip has for a toddler. How does a baby know that once he's picked the flower the tulip's had it for another year? Next year that baby will know better, but there'll be another one who doesn't. They'll pass up a peony or an iris any time. They will have more flowers. The tulips won't, so they pick them.

Another desperate menace is the Helpful Relative who weeds. The only cure for that pest is an enforced course in botany.

Old Enemies

The elements, of course, are the age old enemies of anyone who plants a seed. There's nothing like building a rockery, filling it with plants, and then having a cloudburst which sweeps everything but the rocks out into the middle of the yard. Absolutely nothing.

And, as if all that were not enough, you have trouble with the plants themselves. You'd think they'd appreciate the grim, if unavailing, efforts you make to protect them, but they don't. The average plant, when set out, takes a careful look at its new surroundings, and, if there's the slightest thing that doesn't appeal to it, it spreads itself gently on the ground and quietly passes away.

They can't even get along together. I have reliable witnesses to prove that an Oriental poppy executed an iris in my garden last summer. It took advantage of a wind to saw back and forth with its hairy stem until the poor iris was decapitated.

There is the odd gardener who is known as the neighborhood grouch, but most of them are pleasant people. When you consider it, this is amazing, for there are two inexorable laws re gardeners which none of them question. The first is that if you are a gardener you will garden. The second is, you can't win.

• •

THE RICH ROAD

SPRING is the restless season,—autumn
Deep in contentment as wind-piled leaves.
Oh, rich and comforting these days
As walking the still roads with a friend
Well-known enough to need no needless talk.
The unhasty pace of fall.

Steel-clear the air by the river, repeating its gold banks,
Curved trees of leaves, straight trees
Of smoke from solitary houses;
Steady the limbs to stride past gold and red

Then, at the rich road's end, the waiting house,
The tree-straight walls, the gold and red of fire;
Friendship another wall and warmth to keep
Night's threat-of-winter frosting far outside.

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LONDON LETTER

New Film Import Scheme Employs "More the Merrier" Principle

By P. O'D.

London.

ALL at last is quiet along the celluloid front—if celluloid is what films are made of. The Board of Trade and Hollywood have come to terms about the admission of U.S. films to this country, tax-free but under necessary restrictions as to what may be done with their earnings. The arrangement seems to most people a fair and sensible one, but there are of course adverse critics—especially among the smaller British producers, who fear the competition of American companies with surplus earnings to spend.

To begin with the admitted advantages, cinema-goers are pleased with the prospect of a constant flow of new U.S. pictures, cinema-managers are relieved of their anxieties as to how they were to keep their programs and their houses filled, and the prosperity of the exhibition side of the industry seems to be assured. Besides, it is on this prosperity that the prosperity of the whole industry is based. If the British cinema had to close its doors, the British studio would soon likewise be out of business.

On the other hand, there are stern advocates of austerity who think that £4,250,000 is far too much money for this country to spend on an imported luxury in these days of dollar famine. But even now we are spending a great deal more than this for the re-issue of old American films, which were in this country before the imposition of Mr. Dalton's tax, and whose earnings are therefore unaffected by it. Any payments of this sort will now have to come into the general agreement.

Before the 75 per cent film-tax was imposed, and the flow of American films was suddenly cut off, this country was sending to the U.S. about £17,000,000 a year in film profits. American companies are now to be allowed to take away only £4,250,000 of this, plus a sum equivalent to the earnings of British films in the United States.

So far these British earnings have not been very great, but it is hoped that the present arrangement may encourage the exhibition of British films over there—or at least remove some of the discouragements to their exhibition. In any case, the arrangement will not involve any further drain on our dollar supplies, as what is paid out by one hand will be taken back by the other. The more, the merrier, in fact.

It is about the use of the frozen American film-earnings — estimated at roughly some £12,750,000 annually —that speculation and controversy flourish. Wistful hopes are expressed that some of these may be devoted to charitable and cultural purposes. But all we really know about it as yet is that a joint Anglo-American committee is to supervise the use of this money; and so it seems only reasonable to assume that its use will not be allowed to interfere adversely with the working of any British industry—not even the film industry. (For further comment on U.K. film imports, see Page 31.)

Dr. Ernesto Vinci (above), baritone, and Giuseppe Moschetti, organ virtuoso, will be co-starred in a special benefit concert for the Canadian Aid to Italy Fund, April 5 in Eaton Auditorium. Several assisting artists will contribute to concert.

Tory Shouting

For the first time the Conservatives have solid reason for rejoicing over the result of a by-election, the victory of their candidate at North Croydon. It is true that this does not represent a seat gained, for North Croydon was already Conservative. It had, in fact, been regarded as a Conservative stronghold, until in the General Election of 1945, Mr. Willink —now Master of Magdalene College, Oxford—just managed to squeak in by a mere 607 votes.

The Socialists made a powerful effort to win the seat, and they had good ground for confidence. Their candidate, Mr. Harold Nicholson, the well-known author, is a distinguished and attractive figure, though perhaps a little detached and fastidious for the rough-and-tumble of a hard-fought election. The full weight of the Socialist machine, however, was put behind him; and at the last moment the advent of a Liberal candidate, the dynamic Air Vice-Marshall Bennett—then very much in the public eye over his controversy with the Air Ministry—looked like a further advantage for Socialism.

Against all this the Conservatives had in Mr. Harris a popular local man, but of no particular prominence in public life. The result looked like being a close-run thing, but Mr. Harris fairly romped home with a majority of nearly 12,000. No wonder Conservatives are elated, and Socialists correspondingly depressed about it. Sir Richard Acland, a Left-Wing Socialist stalwart, stated frankly in a speech that it was "a whale of a setback". Most people will agree with him. So also will Air Vice-Marshall Bennett. He lost his deposit.

Talk About Talc!

If you were to go down to the lovely old Cornish port of Fowey, the "Troy Town" of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's romantic novels, one of the things that would strike you would be the ships loading with china clay, all white with the dust of it. On the other side of the bay at St. Austell's there is even more of it, for this is the centre of the china clay industry, and the whole town looks as if it had been dusted with talcum.

Manifold are the uses of the white mineral, known also as kaolin, for it was in China that it was first used. Talcum is one, but it is used also in paper-making, pottery, textiles, paint, medicine and chemistry, and even in rubber goods. In normal times it ranked second only to coal in the value and tonnage of the raw material exported from this country. Now it stands at the top of the list, but the quantity exported has fallen off very badly in recent years —from 534,500 tons in 1937 to about 62,000 in 1944.

The government is building up the industry to its former level.

Lily Time, Bermuda

Dear Jane and Jim
April is certainly the loveliest
of times in Bermuda. The lilies
are a riot of bloom. We swim and
loll on the pink sands every day.
When you come, bring your golf
clubs. And don't forget your dinner
clothes. Dancing under this magic
moon is a dream come true. Let
us know whether you're coming by
plane or boat.
Bob and Alice

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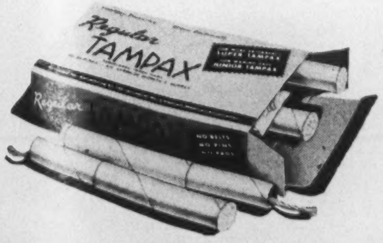

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THE OTHER PAGE

Sweet Are the Uses of Austerity: And Canada Has Had It Before

By W. SHERWOOD FOX

"SWEET are the uses of austerity." When on the spur of the moment our facetious friend tossed off this little parody at the expense of Germany shortly after her surrender, we felt it was at least a bit clever. It did indeed have a point to it, for the Germans, forgetting the abyss of woes into which they had gloatingly hurled millions of other people, were already beginning to sob piteously over the avalanche of hardships now overwhelming them.

But something apart from the sting of its cynicism gave this twist of words a special force: perhaps it was because its tone seemed to be that of a ripe philosophy of life. Plainly, its author had been reading Toynbee (unabridged, too, for the abridged edition was not yet known) and had been taken captive by the historian's strong distinctive argument. The secret of a great people's greatness, he holds, lies in the sustained, positive response of that people to a hard physical environment. So a large measure of the greatness of the Greek, the Scot, the New Englander, is to be found in their dogged defiance of the difficulties offered them by niggardly soils, grudging hills and unfriendly shore-lines. If, our parodist seemed to argue, it is the volume of adversity overcome that determines the height of character attained, then in the mountain of troubles the Germans have heaped upon themselves they have the golden opportunity of all history to lift themselves to the very pinnacle of greatness—to be supermen in reality.

But when last autumn our friend flung off his waggish quip again, this time at the expense of our British brethren as they grimly pored over the long dark columns of their new program of austerity, the words suddenly lost most of their sparkle: their truth had come too close to home to be funny. And soon after that it came all the way home—right across our Canadian threshold. A minister of the Crown in Canada followed the example of the minister of the Gospel in a famous poem by Brewer Mattocks.

"The parish priest
Of Austerity
Climbed up in a high church
steeple
To be nearer God,
So that he might hand
His word down to his people."

When from his lofty post the Hon. Douglas Abbott read down to us Canadians our own private lists of the things we must do without, we were, to put it mildly, more than a little aghast. It *could* happen here after all! For a ray of cheer we turned to our humorist. But in vain, for he, forgetful of humor and Toynbee alike, was now loudly damning the cabal that destiny and Government had formed against him and was publicly bathing himself in self-pity.

But the shock was brief. Very soon it flashed upon our torpid minds that our friend had really done us a good service. The exhibition he had made of himself held him up before us as a true representative of an all too large class of Canadians. They are the class who through the years have been glibly preaching the virtues of reform—for other people. It is our God-given duty to effect reform in the Slav, the Hindu, the Polynesian and the Mongol! But how cruelly outraged are the souls of these zealots at even the most tactful hint that, somehow, reform is one of those things that cannot function abroad until they have become habits at home.

This too is the same class who are now wailing the most loudly about privations and are wildly scatter-firing their invectives in the frantic hope of hitting at least one of those they wantonly pick on as guilty of hoisting costs. Through focusing their eyes on their own persons and their own feelings they have lost the power of seeing either past or present in perspective. To them, today's turmoil is a universal calamity because it has come about in *their* lifetime. Their claims as to the facts of the past are to be distrusted, especially those claims that would make out the present prices of staple articles to be the highest in Canadian history. A single brief instance will dispose of this superlative.

Measured in terms of what money would buy the prices of foodstuffs in Upper Canada were, two months after the close of the Crimean War, at least as high as they are now. Purchasing power of the dollar (and, at that time, of the shilling also) was about three and a half times what it is here today. In letters now lying open before us, letters written in Toronto in December, 1885, and January, 1856, these figures appear:

Butter, retail, 1 shilling and 4 pence, or 33 cents per pound, equivalent to 116 cents today;
Whole hams, wholesale, 18 cents a pound, equal to 63 cents;
Eggs, retail, 22 cents a dozen, equal to 77 cents now.

In 1856 people denounced these prices as "terrible, calamitous, iniquitous." Yet Canada safely survived both the high prices and the fierce adjectives. And Canadians of this day have left in them enough of the vitality and the clear vision of their forebears to enable them to survive now; it depends upon the attitude they decide to take in the face of things as they are.

After all, what are a clear vision and a lively humor but the two eyepieces of the same binocular with which we view life? Certainly, experience has discovered nothing better than a keen sense of humor and the consistent practice of it to keep our perspective undistorted. The power of laughing at hardships and thus of making virtues of them is innate in the British as a unit. This, stepped up to a still higher voltage by Bruce Bairnsfather and his ilk, is what sustained Britain's greatness after the first world war.

Bairnsfather had a happy way of helping the British laugh away food shortages. Who can ever forget his portrayal of the newly affianced swain making his pledge of total surrender to his bride-to-be? "Darling," he vowed, "every potato I have is yours." If any of us would learn the best sauce for the monotonies of the daily menu, let him turn from the household to the battlefield. All one needs do is to recall Old Bill's and Alfred's reception of the patiently-awaited fresh jam tin, when, to their distress, they read upon it the same old label — PLUM AND APPLE. The laughter which they injected into the eternal question they asked on behalf of all Tommies everywhere, was truly a saving grace: "When the 'ell is it going to be strawberry?"

Yes, "sweet are the uses of austerity." But we cannot afford to forget this: the words have no magic to transform, unless their truth is blended with a full stream of humor that wells up from the depths of the soul.

Do something about the weather!

Conquer sullen weather with vivacious fashions. Like this silver-lining to an April cloudburst. Hooded raincoat glistening with processed rayon satin, weather-worthy as a duckling. Typical of the new collection laid away for the rainy days ahead by EATON'S

THE BUSINESS FRONT

Business • Finance • Insurance SATURDAY NIGHT, TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 3, 1948 *P. M. Richards, Financial Editor*

Dollar Move Desirable If U.S. Prices Fall?

By WYNNE PLUMPTRE

Under our arrangements with the World Monetary Fund we have a fairly free hand in moving our dollar—more free than most people suppose. Under what conditions should we make a move?

In this article, the last of four, Mr. Plumptre suggests that when prices in the United States and elsewhere fall sharply we should consider our trade, commodity by commodity and with special attention to gold, and, if conditions in the various markets seem favorable, make a move at that time.

SHOULD we ever change the value of our dollar? We must ask this question because, in the two preceding articles in this group, arguments have been made against changing the value of our dollar now—against the proposal to lower it by 10 per cent and against the proposal to take all controls off and let it find its own level. Now we must ask whether these arguments will always hold or whether, at some time in the future, a change may not be a good thing.

To begin with, what promises have we made in joining the International Monetary Fund? How far are we free to move our dollar? Quite a lot of people seem to think that we have promised to limit such a move to ten or twenty per cent; but this is not so.

We have agreed, together with other countries, to avoid competitive depreciation of our currency, and only to propose a change to correct some "fundamental disequilibrium" in our international dealings. We have also agreed to consult with the Fund about any changes, but, it cannot object to any movement (or movements) up to 10 per cent. It can object to movements beyond that, but it must give a very quick reply—within three days—to a proposed change that does not go beyond 20 per cent. For changes beyond that again we must also get its agreement, and we must give it longer to think over our suggestion. However, there is no limit at all to what we can suggest, or to what the Fund can approve.

There is so much misunderstanding on what we, as members of the Fund, can and cannot do that it is worth while to quote the two sections of our agreement that cover these points (Articles of Agreement; International Monetary Fund; Article IV):

"Section 4. *Obligations regarding exchange stability.*—(a) Each member (such as Canada) undertakes to collaborate with the Fund to promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements with other members, and to avoid competitive exchange alterations . . . .

"Section 5. *Changes in par values.*—(a) A member shall not propose a change in the par value of its currency except to correct a fundamental disequilibrium.

"(b) A change in the par value of a member's currency may be made only on the proposal of the member and only after consultation with the Fund.

"(c) When a change is proposed, the Fund shall first take into account the changes, if any, which have already taken place in the initial par value of the member's currency (when it joined the Fund). . . If the proposed change, together with all previous changes, whether increases or decreases,

(i) does not exceed ten per cent of the initial par value, the Fund shall raise no objection;

(ii) does not exceed a further ten per cent of the initial par value, the Fund may either concur or object, but shall declare its attitude within seventy-two hours if the member so requests;

(iii) is not within (1) or (ii) above, the Fund may either concur or object, but shall be entitled to a longer period in which to declare its attitude."

Since we joined the Fund we have made no changes in the value of our dollar. We have, therefore, a fairly free hand in moving it as long as we do not want to do so in a competitive way or to meet some purely temporary condition. On what principles should we base a decision to make a move?

In the first place, we might want to make a move that would bring us into line, into equilibrium, with other currencies. People often say nowadays that many currencies are far out of line with their "real" values, that they are being held at very "artificial" levels. The most recent issue (February 1948) of the *Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia* sur-

(*Continued on Page* 35)

Current Municipal Expenditures Only One-Quarter Above 1933

MUNICIPAL expenditure remained comparatively stable from 1933 until toward the end of the war. Since then higher levels have been brought about by deferred maintenance, the rising cost of materials, and increased payments for salaries and wages. According to the Bank of Canada Statistical Summary, figures from which are shown in the table below, current municipal expenditures in 1947 were about one-quarter more than those in 1933, a modest increase compared with other levels of government.

It should be pointed out that the expenditure figures shown in the tables are after deducting provincial grants towards specific services. For instance, grants are made to help provide such local services as health, welfare and highways as well as schools, and would amount in all to about eighty million dollars in 1947. Expenditure of municipally-operated public utilities such as waterworks, electric light and power plants, gas plants, street railways and the like have been excluded also, but if these have an operating deficit which is payable by the municipality, this has been included. Municipally-operated hospitals have been treated in the same way.

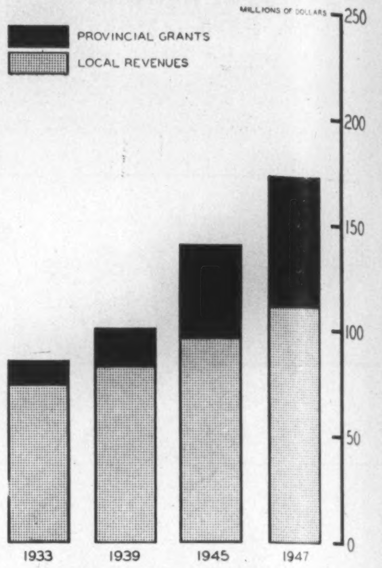
Expenditure on the various municipal services has not followed a uniform pattern during the period. For instance, the cost of public welfare, which includes, among other things, relief, contributions towards hospital upkeep and care of indigent patients, and maintenance of public health and sanitation services, declined during the period 1933 to 1941. This was due to the easing of the relief burden which bore so heavily on the municipalities in the early thirties. The total expenditure on public welfare in 1947, notwithstanding a considerable increase since 1941, is still slightly below the 1933 amount.

Interest payments and other debt charges, exclusive of provision for debt retirement, have continued to decline, with the result that the 1947 amount is more than forty per cent below that of 1933. This is due to a decrease in outstanding debt of about five hundred million dollars, to the general reduction in interest rates and to the refinancing of about four hundred millions of debt of municipalities which experienced financial difficulties during the depression. However, following this long period of debt reduction there has been an appreciable increase in debt in 1947 and indications are that debt charges will rise over the next few years.

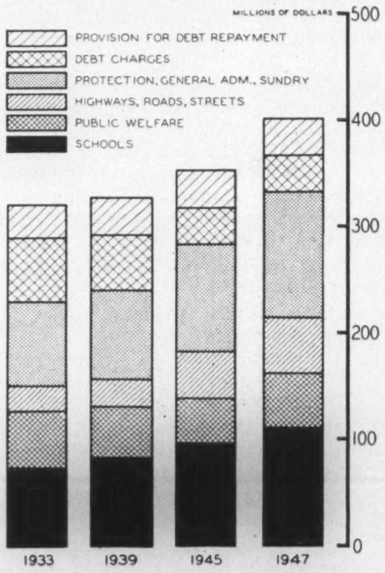
Expenditures on highways, roads and streets showed little change for a number of years but has more than doubled since 1939. Construction and repair work was kept at a minimum during the war and many municipalities still face large expenditures on this service to restore

(*Continued on Page* 31)

Division of School Costs



Expenditures From Local Sources



MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE
(Millions of Dollars)

	YEAR					
	1933	1937	1939	1941	1945[2]	1947[3]
CURRENT EXPENDITURE[1]						
Schools[4]	73.4	77.6	82.3	84.5	95.8	110.8
Public Welfare[4]	53.9	52.6	48.9	38.7	42.5	51.4
Highways, Roads, Streets[4]	22.7	24.0	25.7	28.1	44.8	53.2
Protection, General Adm. and Sundry[4]	78.6	77.0	83.1	87.4	100.1	117.8
Debt Charges, ex. debt repayment	59.6	53.3	51.9	46.6	33.8	33.8
TOTAL	288.1	284.6	291.9	285.3	317.0	367.1
Provision for Debt Repayment	31.9	29.6	35.9	33.9	36.6	34.5
TOTAL Current Expenditure	320.1	314.2	327.8	319.2	353.6	401.6
Expenditure by Class of Municipality:						
Metropolitan	146.1	142.7	147.1	136.0	139.8	161.7
Other Urban	118.7	115.9	121.3	122.0	132.5	150.7
Rural	55.3	55.6	59.4	61.2	81.3	89.2
TOTAL	320.1	314.2	327.8	319.2	353.6	401.6
DIVISION OF SCHOOL COSTS ex. debt charges						
Local Revenues	73.4	77.6	82.3	84.5	95.8	110.8
Provincial Grants	11.9	15.6	18.2	19.9	44.5	61.2
TOTAL	85.3	93.2	100.5	104.4	140.3	172.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	13.6	11.7	12.6	7.2	17.2	72.1

[1] Expenditures are shown after deducting provincial grants for specific services such as those for schools, health, welfare, roads, etc. Provincial General Subsidies have not been deducted. Operating expenditures of public utilities and hospitals, except contributions to deficits, have been excluded also.

[2] Figures included for Quebec municipalities are estimates as actual figures have not yet been published.

[3] Estimated figures based on sample municipal returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

[4] Excludes debt charges.

Most of the figures are, for want of space, given to a certain degree of approximation only. Where this is the case a total does not necessarily equal the sum of its constituent items.

THE BUSINESS ANGLE

Socialism Not Working in Coal

By P. M. RICHARDS

THE last ten years or so have seen an enormous growth in the number and power of the socialists. Socialist governments are in control of a number of countries, while other countries professedly opposed to socialism, such as Canada and the United States, have nevertheless gone in for many socialistic practices. Canada has a socialist political party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, which, while not now constituting the official opposition to the party in power, would seem to have a good chance of attaining office sooner or later. Capitalism is in greater disfavor today than at any time in the last hundred years, despite its rich fruitfulness. For high average fruitfulness has not prevented periodical plunges into economic depression, and the cry today is for greater economic security for the individual. Socialism, to many, is the means of achieving this.

Would a socialistic government in Canada really be likely to give us the stability we yearn for? Does socialism really work? Do the obvious imperfections of capitalism give us ground for believing that we can do better with socialism? In trying to make up our minds on these important questions we now have before us the actual results of socialist government operations in other countries. Great Britain, for instance, recently concluded its first year of experience with a socialized coal industry, and some pertinent facts on the results to date of that experiment have just been published by a Washington journal, *U.S. News and World Report.* Canada, with its socialistic leanings, has reason to be interested.

Lose Money Under Socialism

The record for the first year shows that British coal production gained a bit under government operation. Output for 1947 was 220 million tons, just a shade under the official target of 224 million tons. In 1946, the last year under private industry, British coal mines yielded 211 million tons.

But costs soared. The average cost of mining a ton of British coking coal in 1946 approximated $6.34. The cost of mining a ton of coal at the end of 1947 was $8.80. Production costs rose about 39 per cent while output gained a little more than 4 per cent. Most of the cost increase was due to higher wages.

And prices advanced. When the government took over the industry, industrial coal was selling at the mine for around $7.70 a ton. After a year of socialist operation, the price had gone to $9 a ton. Profits turned into losses. Stockholders of privately-operated coal mines realized a $60 millions profit in 1946. But the government, under socialist operation, suffered an operating deficit of $40 millions in the first year. In addition, the government had to carry a net charge of $40 millions to meet interest payments to former stockholders in coal-mining companies. That left the government with a total loss for the year of $80 millions.

British socialism's balance sheet thus shows that the coal industry's books turned from black to red, that coal consumers had to pay higher prices, and that British taxpayers had to bear the industry's losses. In exchange, the country got 9 million more tons of coal.

Labor Relations as Difficult

This poor balance sheet is explained somewhat by the fact that wages went up several months before prices were advanced; that some costs are included which did not show on private-company books, and that the government is spending more than private operators to improve mines and to recruit and train labor.

Other problems besides profits, however, plague the government just as they bother private industry. The government is finding that socialism offers no easy answer to productive efficiency, wages, union discipline and hiring and firing policies. Workers are working very little harder for the government than they did for their private employers. Miners quickly transferred their traditional hostile attitude against "the boss" to the National Coal Board. When the Coal Board ordered one region to produce more coal per shift, it had a strike on its hands.

Wage policy is just as much a headache to the Coal Board as it ever was. In exchange for wage benefits, miners agreed to work an extra half-day a week, but this agreement expires April 30. Now the miners are asking for still another wage boost. Since wages represent two-thirds of all production costs, another wage raise would mean another increase in the cost of British coal. Union discipline is no more effective now than it used to be. Miners have refused to abide by union-government agreements. Hiring and firing has become a more difficult problem.

British experience in coal indicates that socialism increases costs and solves few, if any, of the production problems of industry. It is to be hoped that Canada's C.C.F. is taking notes.

U.S. Technique Could Ruin British Films

By JOHN L. MARSTON

Saturday Night's Financial Correspondent in London

The action of Britain's Board of Trade in removing the import duty on American films has been severely criticized in British financial circles. The U.S. companies are to be able to take out of Britain earnings up to $17 millions yearly, and to set against exports of films to Britain all the earnings of British films in the U.S. The amount of such earnings will be remitted in dollars to the U.S., making a total of around $20 millions.

The surplus is to be invested in the British film industry. Mr. Marston thinks that this might tend to result in standardization of British films on U.S. lines and thereby greatly lessen the present appeal of British films in world markets.

ondon.

MERICAN films are a subject of interest to the general public over uch of the world. Hollywood is the ntre of one of the United States' g export industries, and the overas markets, particularly the Brith market, are essential to that instry's profitable working.

But since the dollar economies of st autumn there was a position of adlock between the U.S. producers d the British market, the imposion of a 75 per cent import duty by e British government having been llowed by a boycott by the U.S. instry. The deadlock has lately been oken by an Anglo-American film reement which comes into force in id-June. It is an agreement whose rking will be watched with conderable interest, and not a little prehension.

It would be difficult to find another se where an import duty on a forgn product has been resented by a mestic industry. The dominant itish film-producers were, in fact, most as strongly opposed to the tax the Americans with whom, in the oduction field, they compete.

The explanation of this strange enomenon is that the big British m-exhibiting units are owned by the oducing organizations and are their ain profit-earning assets; so that e potential increase in earnings of itish-made films was not sufficient counter-balance the decline in venue which would, it was believed, entually result from the cessation showings of new American films the public.

Besides which, British and Amerin finance is so closely interwoven in the intricate British film business that it is never easy to perceive which voice is speaking on any question of policy.

In agreeing to remove the duty (after vowing repeatedly that it would never yield) the British government was doubtless moved by the fact that the whole idea was misconceived in the first place. The logic of the matter was—and surely still is—unanswerable: that in her desperate plight Britain cannot afford to spend dollars on a product whose worth is debatable but which is in any case not an essential.

Virtually No Saving

But in imposing the import duty the government merely checked the inflow of films; it did not check remittances on the earnings of films already in the country. It seems that, compared with net remittances of about $68 millions in 1946 and $52 millions in 1947, remittances on "reissues" have lately been running at a rate of $50 millions a year — so that there has been virtually no saving of dollars at all.

The new agreement allows only a much smaller amount to be currently withdrawn. The U.S. companies will be able to take out earnings up to $17 millions a year. They will also be able, additionally, to set against exports of films to Britain all the earnings of British films in the U.S., and remittance in dollars of sums equivalent to those earnings will be permitted.

According to Mr. Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Pictures Association of America, such earnings, after distribution costs, were in the neighborhood of $4 millions last year. Apparently, the actual dollar claim will be not much over $20 millions a year.

If one accepts the fact that Britain must have American films no matter what else she loses, this agreement may seem fairly creditable to Mr. Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, who negotiated it on behalf of Britain.

Yet in and beyond London financial circles (though not in the film world) it has been criticized in the most uncompromising terms. When the possibilities of "reissues" had been exhausted, losses by the American companies, with the British market for their new output closed, would have been so heavy that they could hardly have attempted to bargain; as it is, their bold bluff in boycotting the British market has unquestionably succeeded.

But in agreeing to the release of dollars for new films (at first for two years and then, presumably, indefinitely) Mr. Wilson has committed a far less dangerous error than in granting a large measure of freedom to the surplus of earnings which cannot be remitted. On last year's figures the surplus is about $26 millions a year.

Surplus in U.K. Films

This surplus will expand or contract as British film earnings in the U.S. contract or expand, but in any case it will be considerable. And the greater part of it, quite naturally, will be invested in the British film industry. (Mr. Wilson outraged some respectable hoteliers by suggesting that a part of the balances should be used to improve the hotel business, but such activities could hardly be a major consideration.)

No industry is so healthy that it cannot benefit in some ways from assistance from the resources of a highly-developed foreign competitor. Films, however, have certain characteristics which are not shared—or, if so, in only a small degree—by automobiles or textiles or other tangible goods. They express a particular outlook on life, and as such they are distinctively national.

The growing export trade in British films has evidently been made possible not only by the improvement of British film technique up to something like Hollywood standards but also selection of subjects and treatment of those subjects according to other standards than Hollywood's.

Every British imitation of Hollywood has been inferior to the Hollywood product. If the American interests come in to standardize the industry on American lines, and so make not imitations but replicas, it will be no longer possible to present a distinctive British product as an important (and lucrative) cultural export.

EXPORT
CANADA'S FINEST
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• •

Municipal Expenditures

(*Continued from Page* 30)

their roads and streets to a satisfactory condition.

Protection and general administration costs have risen about thirty-five per cent since 1941. As this service includes salaries and wages of municipal police and firemen, as well as general administrative staffs, this increase, in large part, has followed the general rise in price and wage levels.

School costs, exclusive of debt charges, but including the share paid out of provincial grants, have doubled since 1933. The increase, especially in recent years, has been due, in part, to well deserved increases in teachers' salaries. The division of costs between local revenue and provincial grants is illustrated in the chart above. The share paid from local revenues continues to increase notwithstanding the fact that much larger provincial grants have been received, particularly in later years. Provincial grants have increased about two hundred per cent since 1941 while the share borne by local revenues has increased about thirty per cent.

Municipal governments, to meet the demand for services, have to build and equip schools, general administrative and police buildings, firehalls and community halls, and construct such works as streets, sidewalks, roads, sewers and sewage disposal plants. Sometimes these works are paid for out of current funds in the year in which they are constructed, in which case they are included in current expenditures. The more general practice is to finance them by the sale of debentures, in which case they would appear as capital expenditures. Figures for these are shown separately. They were comparatively small until 1947 when it is estimated they may reach about seventy million dollars, a sum which approaches the level of such expenditures in the late twenties. This does not include municipal capital borrowings for public utility purposes which, in 1947, might be a further ten million dollars.

It may seem odd that current expenditures in the Metropolitan Areas of Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Windsor and Montreal have risen only fifteen and a half million dollars or about eleven per cent in the period 1933-1947 while expenditures of Other Urban Areas have increased about thirty million or nearly thirty per cent and those of Rural Areas about thirty-four million or about sixty per cent.

Several factors account for this. One is that relief expenditures were very high in Metropolitan Areas in 1933 compared with other areas. Another is that in 1933 their debt and interest charges were comparatively high. Since then these debts have been decreased by over two hundred and fifty million dollars or about thirty-two per cent, and the Montreal and Windsor debts and those in some of the suburban areas around Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver have been refinanced at lower interest rates. A third factor no doubt was the extremely low level in 1933 of expenditures for school and municipal services in some rural areas compared with the more normal level in such areas today.

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Head Office For Canada: Metropolitan Bldg., Toronto • Colin E. Sword, Manager for Canada

COMPANIES OF THE "UNION OF CANTON" GROUP
BRITISH TRADERS INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED • THE BRITISH OAK INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
BEAVER FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
Also under same management in Canada: THE SOUTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

58C

"With Personal Regards..."

Our confidential correspondence files are full of letters and copies of letters . . . opinions sought . . . suggestions made . . . investment problems discussed . . . transactions completed. There is nothing unusual about this . . *but* . . . to us it is interesting to note how many of these letters end on a *personal* note.

There is a personal relationship between our clients and the individual members of our organization on whom they lean for investment service . . . the outgrowth of many years of conscientious interest in our clients' affairs.

This personal service is available to *all* our clients . . . it is available to *you*.

A. E. Ames & Co.
Limited
Business Established 1889

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NEW YORK LONDON, ENG.

SERVICE TO INVESTORS

Among the services which we provide our clients are the following:

1. MONTHLY BOOKLET "INVESTMENTS".
2. TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS (Booklet).
8. QUARTERLY CANADIAN REVIEW.
4. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT LOANS HANDBOOK FOR INVESTORS AND DEALERS IN CANADIAN BONDS.
5. SECURITY RECORD BOOKLET.
6. ANALYSIS OF SECURITY HOLDINGS.
7. STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Investors are invited to avail themselves of any of our services, and to call upon us for recommendations regarding the purchase or sale of securities.

LISTED STOCKS

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LONDON HAMILTON KITCHENER QUEBEC HALIFAX SAINT JOHN

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

DIVIDEND NO. 245

NOTICE is hereby given that a DIVIDEND OF TWENTY CENTS per share on the paid-up Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared for the quarter ending 30th April 1948 and that the same will be payable at the Bank and its Branches on and after Saturday, the First day of MAY next, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on 31st March 1948. The Transfer Books will not be closed.

By order of the Board
JAMES STEWART
General Manager

Toronto, 19th March 1948

PENMANS LIMITED

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Dividends have been declared for the quarter ending the 30th day of April, 1948.

On the Preferred Stock, one and one-half per cent. (1½%), payable on the 1st day of May to Shareholders of record of the 1st day of April, 1948.

On the Common Stock, seventy-five cents (75c) per share, payable on the 15th day of May to Shareholders of record of the 15th day of April, 1948.

By Order of the Board.

C. B. ROBINSON,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Montreal,
March 22, 1948.

NEWS OF THE MINES

Nickel 1947 Sales Are Highest For Peacetime Since 1937

By JOHN M. GRANT

INTERNATIONAL Nickel Co. of Canada in 1947 had the best earnings since 1941. Net profit in terms of U.S. currency of $33,503,466, equivalent, after preferred dividends, to $2.16 per share on the common, compared with $29,681,352. or $1.90 a common share in 1946. Throughout the year there was a steady demand for products, R. C. Stanley, president, states in the annual report. Sales of nickel in all forms were the highest of any peacetime year except 1937. while sales of refined copper were the highest in the postwar period. Sales of platinum metals, however, were considerably lower. Other highlights of the excellent report for 1947 were the facts that proven ore reserves were at a new peak since 1939 and the company's net working capital the greatest ever recorded.

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Underground development was expanded by International Nickel last year, and totalled 54,790 feet as compared with 48,673 in 1946. Proven ore reserves at the year end amounted to 221,843,000 short tons containing 7,171,000 tons of nickel-copper, compared with 217,142,000 short tons containing 6,861,000 tons of nickel-copper at the end of 1946 and 212,368,000 short tons at the end of 1938 containing 6,806,000 tons of nickel-copper. Capital expenditures of $9.568,796 in 1947 compare with $3,775,509 in 1946. Expenditures of $12,000,000 are estimated for 1948. At the year end, net working capital of $144,095,210 compared with $137,996.062 at the close of the preceding year.

•

Exploration and development work are being accelerated by the International Nickel Company to meet the continuing needs for nickel and nickel alloys for industrial projects and postwar restoration. Improvements in the smelters, refineries and roll-

The Stock Analyst

By W. GRANT THOMSON

SUCCESSFUL investment depends on knowing two things: (1) What to buy (or sell) (2) When to buy (or sell). The stock Analyst—a study of Canadian stock habits—answers the first question. An Investment Formula provides a definite plan for the second.

All active and well distributed stocks (with a few minor exceptions) advance or decline with the Averages. The better grade investment stocks do not normally move as fast as the averages, while on the other hand the very speculative issues have a relative velocity more than twice or three times as great.

The STOCK ANALYST divides stocks into three Groups according to their normal velocity in relation to the Averages.

The Factors affecting the longer term movements of a company's shares are ascertained from a study of their normal habits. Predominant Factors are shown as:

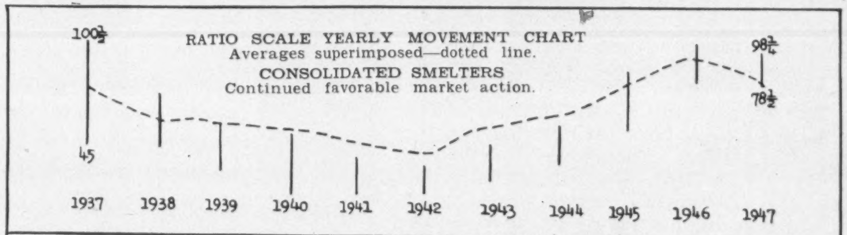
GROUP "A"—Investment Stocks	1. FAVORABLE
GROUP "B"—Speculative Investments	2. AVERAGE or
GROUP "C"—Speculations	3. UNATTRACTIVE

A stock rated as Favorable has considerably more attraction than one with a lower rating, but it is imperative that purchases be made, even of stocks rated Favorable, with due regard to timing because few stocks will go against the trend of the Averages.

The Investment Index is the average yield of all stocks expressed as a percentage of the yield of any stock, thus showing at a glance the relative investment value placed on it by the "bloodless verdict of the market-place."

Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd.

			Averages		Smelters	
PRICE 20 Mar. 48	$94.00					
YIELD	8.5%	Last 1 month	Down	6.7%	Down	6.0%
INVESTMENT INDEX	66	Last 12 months	Down	12.4%	Up	7.7%
GROUP	"B"	1942-46 range	Up	160.0%	Up	221.9%
RATING	Above Average	1946-48 range	Down	23.1%	Down	25.3%



SUMMARY:—Stocks that sell around $1.00 per share must advance $10 in order to provide as much profit as stocks that advance from $10 to $11 per share. This is a most obvious statement but it is sometimes well to recall it because of the greater publicity usually given to dollar advances in financial columns, whereas it is only the percentage gains or losses that really matter.

Nevertheless, the continued favorable market action of Smelters is noteworthy. It has outstripped the yearly and bull market advance of the averages, although it was not immune from the technical sell off from its extreme high in 1946 (a 25.3% decline compared with a decline of 23.1% for the Industrial averages.)

Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. continues to enjoy a very high rating and, given a reasonably decent market in stocks in the next year or so, should give an excellent account of itself. It has well rewarded those who have followed the high rating accorded it for some years past. We have no knowledge of the rumored split in the shares of this stock, but if it should occur, we believe the new shares would not long be available on an 8½% basis.

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Toronto • Montreal • Hamilton • Winnipeg • Vancouver
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CASH

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Assets Exceed $80,000,000

EXECUTIVE
would link up with firm of integrity. Complete knowledge of publishing, advertising, publicity, film work, television.
BOX 102 SATURDAY NIGHT

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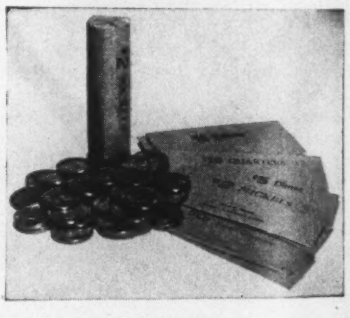


We can supply tubular coin wrappers in all sizes . . . . imprinted with your firm name if desired.
Ask for samples and prices on coin wrappers as well as on NATIONAL Safety Seal Envelopes.

NATIONAL
PAPER GOODS LIMITED
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver

BRAZILIAN TRACTION, LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of this Company has declared a dividend of one dollar per share on the Company's issued Ordinary Shares of no par value, payable on June 2nd, 1948 to shareholders of record at the close of business on April 9th, 1948.

In the case of share warrants to bearer the above dividend is represented by Coupon No. 81, which coupon should be detached by the holders of warrants and presented for payment as follows:—

1. Coupons detached from warrants physically held in and by residents of Belgium or the Duchy of Luxembourg, France, or The Netherlands — after compliance with the Belgian, French or The Netherlands regulations pertaining thereto and following a notice which will be published in each country in connection therewith—must be presented to the Company's paying agent in Brussels, Paris or Amsterdam, respectively, for payment.

2. In all other cases coupons may be presented in England to The Canadian Bank of Commerce, 2 Lombard St., London E. C. 3, or in Canada to the Company, 25 King St. W., Toronto. If presented in England coupons will be paid in Canadian currency provided holder complies with the British Defence (Finance) Regulations of the Canadian Custodian.

Payment of this dividend to non-residents of Canada will, where applicable be subject to deduction of Canadian Non-resident Income Tax.

Dated at Toronto, Canada, the 23rd day of March, 1948.

By Order of the Board.

OSBORNE MITCHELL,
Secretary.

The Transfer Agents of the Company are National Trust Company, Limited, Toronto and Montreal, Canada, who should be notified promptly of any change of address.

BUSINESS AND MARKET FORECAST

No Major Turn Yet

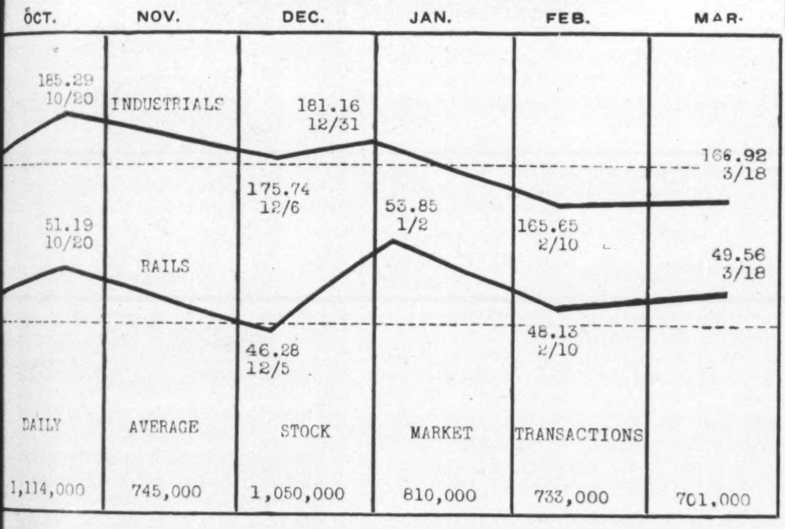
BY HARUSPEX

THE LONG-TERM N.Y. AND CANADIAN MARKET TREND: While the decline of 1946-7 went some distance toward discounting maladjustments in the economic picture, evidence is lacking that a point of fundamental market turnabout has yet been reached. The intermediate trend of the market is downward, with testing of the major 1946-7 support points now in progress.

Contrary to our viewpoint of 1947, we have pointed to conditions in 1948 that could contribute to a major reversal of the market to an upward direction—probably in the first half. Because of this changed background, any worthwhile minor advance, such as the sharp upturn of March 19 and 20, cannot be too lightly dismissed. Thus, we must recognize that, some months hence, it is possible that investors will look back on the recent bottom as the major turning point for a sustained forward trend.

With the above concession to the broad possibilities of the technical background, we would like to add that we regard the probabilities as against major reversal having recently taken place. After a persistent decline, such as that from mid-October to early February, a good rally was due and, indeed, was forecast herein as early as January as in order should the industrial average decline to the 163/165 level. A halfway recovery of the lost October-February ground would take the market to 175; a ⅝ recovery, to 178. So far, the market has held within the lower of these bounds although even exceeding the higher limit would carry no decisive implications. Once such rebound has been achieved, the market will be open to general economic influences and then, as decline is resumed, will come the test as to whether the advance was somewhat more than a technical affair. In the face of both current political and business conditions, we are dubious as to a major market turn having yet been effected — despite its increased 1948 expectancy. Accordingly, we continue to advise a cautious course.

DOW-JONES STOCK AVERAGES



g mills are being made in accordnce with the dictates of production equirements, experience and reearch. President Stanley points out here are, however, a number of actors which make it difficult to orecast a continuing period of rospering business conditions. "Ination is, no doubt, the most importnt of these. It can be overcome nly by far-seeing statesmanship and united efforts on the part of industry, labor and the public to bring about stabilization of the wage-price structure." Another factor is employer-employee relations, but Mr. Stanley states once the problem of inflation is properly solved there is no sound reason why industry and labor should not be able to solve their own differences in a spirit of amity. The European Recovery Program is also of major importance.

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The completion of the new process plant of International Nickel at Copper Cliff was again delayed by deferred deliveries of materials and by manpower shortage, however, it now seems assured that the various units of this plant will be ready for operation prior to the year end. This plant will furnish a new product, nickel oxide sinter, for use in the manufacture of steels. It will also furnish intermediate sintering products for the company's nickel refineries.

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Net earnings of Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines in 1947 were $1,109,992, equivalent to 22.56 cents per share, as compared with $1,744,394, or 35.45 cents in the previous year. Tonnage and grade of ore treated were off slightly, and an increase of 20% in the price of supplies other than power was directly responsible for an increase in cost of 23 cents per ton. It is pointed out by Jules R. Timmins, president, in the annual report that the dividends as paid during the past year were not fully earned during the year. He goes on to state, "the Dominion Government recognizing the difficult plight of the industry made substantial reductions in taxes during the year 1947 and also propose to pay to gold mines having costs in excess of $18 per ounce a percentage of such costs of production. However, increase in cost of labor and supplies in the past 18 months, 80% of such increase being referable to increased cost of labor, has more than offset the assistance given and proposed to date. If costs continue to rise without an increase in the price of gold, or additional assistance from the Dominion Government, your company will be unable to operate at a profit." Estimated ore reserves are 223,256 tons less than reported a year ago and at the end of the year were valued at $79,208,787, gold at $35 an ounce. Net working capital of $3,886,430 compared with $4,540,918 a year previous.

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The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in Vancouver on April 5-8, and the Jubilee meeting promises to be a landmark in Institute history. The proceedings are designed to mark 50 years of progress in each of the major divisions of the mineral industry, namely, coal, geology, industrial minerals, metallurgy and metal mining, and leaders in each of these lines will present papers and lead discussions. Since incorporation of the Institute in 1898, the Dominion's mineral industry has developed from a small and struggling affair into one of the world's important units. Then Canada was a purveyor of raw ores to its neighbors on a small scale, with a per capita annual production of $7.32. Today not only do its minerals support a great and growing industry within its own borders, but the industry has become one of the world's leading suppliers of refined metals and minerals. The per capita value in 1947 was over $50.

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Campbell Red Lake Mines is reported purchasing mill machinery, and other items it can use, from Indian Molybdenum Ltd., in Preissac township, northwestern Quebec. Both companies are controlled by Dome Exploration, wholly owned subsidiary of Dome Mines. While Indian Molybdenum milled up to 750 per day on molybdenum ore it is possible around 500 tons per day could be handled at the Red Lake property. Equipment was reported earlier in the month being dismantled and prepared for shipment. Electrical equipment will not be utilized as it is 25-cycle.

•

Net profit of $12,509,464, equivalent to $4.54 a share is reported by Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Company for 1947. This compares with net earnings of $8,885,078, or $3.21 per share in the preceding 12 months. Tonnage of ore treated last year was unchanged from the previous two years. Precious metal output was lower in 1947, but copper and zinc were about the same. Current assets at the end of the year were $34,808,565, and included $9,292,395 cash and $13,363,708, Canadian Government bonds. Current liabilities totalled $5,899,685. Comparable totals at the close of 1946 were current assets $29,921,588 and current liabilities $5,432,845. Ore reserves are estimated to be 22,700,000 tons as against 26,000,000 tons at the beginning of 1947, and the decline is due to the inability to carry out the customary amount of forward work.

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A mining plant is being purchased by Akaitcho Yellowknife Gold Mines to be installed as soon as possible on its property adjoining north of Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines, in the Yellowknife Bay area. This decision followed the exercising by Frobisher, Ltd. of an option on 369,995 shares at 75 cents per share. With this payment the amount available in the company's treasury now exceeds $500,000. Diamond drilling on the Akaitcho property has disclosed four gold bearing lenses within a continuous shear zone. The largest of these is calculated to contain 260,000 tons averaging 0.65 oz. gold uncut and .48 oz. cut grade. Plans call for the purchase of a compressor, hoist, transformers, switching equipment and all necessary construction supplies to put down a three-compartment shaft.

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A net loss of $24,488 is shown by Pamour Porcupine Mines for 1947, as compared with a net profit of $209,395, or 4.19 cents per share in the previous 12 months. The loss was mainly attributable to increased costs resulting from treatment of a lower tonnage and higher wages, along with the lower price received for gold. A slight increase in tonnage and grade was apparent in ore reserves, which at the end of the year were 1,391,400 tons averaging 0.113 oz. gold per ton. The company's financial position is strong, net working capital amounting to $3,187,488. With an increased working force and consequently greater tonnage it is hoped 1948 results will be considerably better.

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Prospectors were told at their recent convention by Wilbert G. Fritz, fiscal analyst with the U.S. Bureau of the Budget at Washington, that rewards for discovery of superior base metal reserves would in all probability rise as exhaustion spreads. "There will be fewer good mines in existence to offer competition," he said, and "the price of the metals will tend to be determined by the cost of mining lower-grade reserves." At the same time, Mr. Fritz points out that as a result of modern industry's large appetite for base metals, he believes the days of chronic surpluses are over. This leaves the prospector with a difficult job; the finding of enough deposits to remove the threat of recurrent shortages. Referring to the fact that Marshall plan provided for the purchase of some goods in countries outside the United States, Mr. Fritz said the provision of adequate raw materials was a key objective in the plan, and that since the plan was a recovery measure it assumed rising requirements of materials.

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Milling operations were resumed early this year at Naybob Gold Mines (1945), in the Porcupine area, and the mill which has a rated capacity of 200 tons or more per day, has been handling 100 tons daily. The rate will be increased as more tonnage becomes available, so far having been working on low grade development rock. A modest tonnage of new ore was developed last year, and there is available ore left in the backs of stopes when operations were suspended five years ago. A small brick has been poured from the initial operations.

LEIT H GOLD MINES
LIMITED
(N Personal Liability)
IVIDEND NO. 39
OTICE HEREBY GIVEN that a arterly idend of two cents per share s been lared by the directors of the ompany, able in Canadian funds, on y 15, 19 to shareholders of record at se of b ness April 15, 1948.
By order the Board.
W. W. McBRIEN
Secretary-Treasurer
arch 25, 1 48.

ORIENTAL
ROSE VINE

This beautiful vine was lost to commerce for many years, but was occasionally found in some of the old gardens, known as Climbing Peony, Climbing Rose, Double Hardy Morning Glory, etc. It dies to the ground each Fall and comes up new from the roots each Spring. Extremely hardy and vigorous. The full, double rose-like flowers are clear bright pink, 1½ to 2 inches across, and produced in great profusion all Summer, even in hot weather. Many old gardeners will recognize this fine vine. We offer plants that will flower this season. Order and send remittance now. Delivery at planting season. (Each 50¢) (3 for $1.25) (dozen $4.00) postpaid.
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3¾% First Mortgage Bonds Series "C"
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. . . of Saving!

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IMPERIAL BANK
OF CANADA

153-8

ABOUT INSURANCE

Disputed Claims Coming Before the Courts for Adjudication

By GEORGE GILBERT

It is sometimes difficult to determine whether a claim made under an insurance policy is a valid one or not, according to the terms of the contract, the claimant contending that the policy covers the loss for which payment is demanded, and the insurance holding that it does not.

If no settlement can be reached by agreement, the courts are then usually given the task of settling the question, with results that are often surprising, though it is well known that if there is any trace of ambiguity in the policy wording it will be construed in favor of the claimant.

WHILE the great majority of claims which arise under insurance policies are settled promptly and satisfactorily, there are cases from time to time in which the validity of the claim is disputed and recourse is had to the courts for determination. Sometimes the question to be decided is whether the loss for which payment is claimed comes within the terms of the policy. It is well known, of course, that any ambiguity in the wording of a policy will be construed against the insurance company issuing the contract.

In a recent case across the line in Ohio action was taken against a life insurance company by the beneficiary under a policy for $1,000 issued by the company on the life of his son. At the trial it was brought out that in his application for the policy dated Nov. 14, 1940, the insured gave negative answers to questions as to whether he had ever made or contemplated making any aircraft ascensions. In an "Aviation Questionnaire" which he answered and signed on Dec. 10, 1940, the insured stated that he had made two trips in aircraft, that they were for pleasure, that he had taken a civilian air reserve club examination but failed to pass, that he neither owned or contemplated owning a plane, that he was not a member of any aviation school or club, that he was connected with no business which maintained a plane, and that he was not in military service.

Aviation Endorsement

Six days after he signed the aviation questionnaire, the insurance company issued the policy with an attached endorsement reading, "on account of the aviation hazard of the insured policy is issued with the following amendment: Death as a result directly or indirectly of service, travel or flight in or on any species of aircraft, except as a fare-paying passenger in a licensed plane operating on a regular schedule with a licensed pilot over established air lines, is a risk not assumed under this policy, but if the insured shall die as a result directly or indirectly of such service, travel or flight, as above provided, the company will pay to the beneficiary the reserve on this policy."

Heads New Department

J. H. ROMIG

The Canada Life Assurance Company announces the appointment of John H. Romig as Manager of Policy Owner Relations. Mr. Romig has been associated with the Company since 1929 and has had wide experience in field and administrative phases of the life insurance business.

There was a double indemnity provision in the policy, providing double indemnity for accidental death, but under the heading "exceptions" it provided that "death resulting directly or indirectly from any of the following is a risk not assumed under this accidental death benefit provision: self-destruction, sane or insane; being or having been in, on or about any species of aircraft; war, riot, or insurrection, or any act incidental thereto . . . ."

About a year and a half after the issuance of the policy the insured became a member of the United States Reserve and was assigned to the Naval Air Corps. He became a pilot on a torpedo bomber. On Oct. 18, 1944, while returning from a mission over Manila Bay, his supply of gasoline became exhausted, and his plane plunged into the sea. Some of the members of the crew were rescued but the insured was not seen again nor was his body recovered.

Judgment for Claimant

At the conclusion of the evidence the trial court directed a verdict for the beneficiary, the claimant. This judgment was affirmed by the Court of Appeals, and the insurance company appealed to the Supreme Court of Ohio, which, in affirming the judgment of the Court of Appeals, held that certain ambiguity in the wording of the policy should be construed strictly against the insurance company and liberally in favor of the insured where the contract has been written or prepared by the insurance company.

It was held that the specific exclusion of war risk in the double indemnity feature of the policy emphasized the failure of the company to mention war in the other provisions; that the inquiry of the company related to the civilian activities of the insured; that the opening phrase of the endorsement attached to the policy read "on account of the aviation hazard of the insured," not the general language "on account of the aviation hazard." At the time of the application for the policy the aviation hazard of the insured was civilian. It was held that a life insurance policy which excludes civilian air risks will not be construed to exclude military aviation risks in time of war unless clearly so expressed. (76 Northeastern 2d. 284. Dec. 10, 1947.)

In another recent case action was taken in Oklahoma under an accident policy to recover total and permanent disability benefits, the insurance company having denied liability. The policy, taken out in 1943, provided that "if the insured, while this policy is in force, shall sustain bodily injury which is effected directly and independently of all other causes solely through accidental means and which injury within twenty days from the date of the accident, causes total and continuous disability and prevents the insured from engaging in any and every kind of business or labor pertaining to his occupation, the company will pay . . . ."

Insured's Duties

In his employment by the State Highway Department, the insured was a member of a crew of men whose duties were to examine the topography and explore the substrata formations under the routes of proposed highways. The crew used heavy machinery and the insured's duties involved hard manual labor and great physical effort.

On June 16, 1944, while the insured was engaged in resetting a location stake, a rock ledge at the location of the stake gave way, causing him to fall headfirst a distance of 12 feet. He landed on his neck and shoulders in a "jacknife" position. The fall caused a compression injury to the sixth cervical vertebra and a reversal of the curve of the neck. There was a shortening of the sixth cervical vertebra allowing the one immediately above to ride down lower than it should.

At the time of the trial the insured could not raise his left arm above his head or move it behind his body and any movement of the arm resulted in crepitation and pain. It was brought out in evidence that prior to the injury the insured suffered from osteo-arthritis of the spine, and that the arthritis contributed to the insured's over-all disability.

But the court, however, found that there was sufficient disability resulting from the accident alone to prevent the insured from engaging in any and every kind of business pertaining to his occupation and that even though the arthritis existed and contributed to the over-all disability, yet such contribution did not and had not at any time since the injury been responsible for the injury and disability. On appeal from this decision, by the insurance company, the judgment of the trial court was affirmed by the Circuit Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit. (164 Federal 2d. 9. Oct. 28, 1947.)

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Inquiries

Editor, About Insurance:

Can you tell me how long the Ohio Farmers Insurance Company has been doing business in Canada and the extent of its operations in this country? Is it regularly licensed here, and has it a deposit with the Government for the protection of Canadian policyholders? Does it carry on business under Dominion or Provincial license?

G. F. K., Victoria, B.C.

Ohio Farmers Insurance Company, with head office at LeRoy, Ohio and Canadian head office at Vancouver, B.C., is an old-established company, having been incorporated in 1848. It has been doing business in Canada since 1930 under Dominion registry, and is regularly licensed here. Latest published Government figures show that at the end of 1946 its admitted assets in this country were $154,581, while its total liabilities here amounted to $62,482. Thus there was an excess of assets in Canada over liabilities in Canada of $92,099. Its Government deposit at Ottawa amounted to $114,400, held solely for the protection of Canadian policyholders. The gross amount of the fire insurance premiums, less return premiums, written by the company in Canada in 1946 was $72,407 and the net amount was $61,988; the gross and net amount of the automobile insurance premiums was $7,786; and the gross and net amount of personal property insurance premiums was $435. The net amount of fire insurance in force in the company at the end of 1946 in Canada was $16,852,937. The company is safe to insure with and all claims are readily collectable.

Editor, About Insurance:

Are any official figures obtainable, in the case of Canadian fire and casualty companies doing business also outside Canada, showing the amounts they do in this country of the various classes of insurance separately from the amounts of these several classes they do in other countries?

F. M. J., Winnipeg, Man.

So far as the companies operating under Dominion registry are concerned, in the detailed financial statement of each company published in Vol. 1 of the annual report of the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance, Ottawa, there are two separate tables, one showing the amounts they transact in Canada of the various classes of insurance, and the other showing the amounts they do outside of Canada of the various lines of insurance. With respect to fire insurance business, these tables show the gross in force at the end of the previous year, the amount taken during the year, the amount terminated, the gross in force at the end of the year, the amount reinsured, the net in force at the end of the year; and in the case of both fire and casualty business the tables show the gross premiums in force at the end of the previous year, the new and renewed premiums taken during the year, the premiums ceased during the year, the gross premiums in force at the end of the year, th amount of reinsurance premiums and the net amount of premiums i force at the end of the year.

Single-decker bus being loaded at London docks en route for Argentina. Fifty of these have been ordered by the Buenos Aires transport board.

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Canada's Oldest Insurance Company

1809 HALIFAX INSURANCE 1948

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL STATEMENT—BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS—January 1st, 1948		
Cash on deposit—Banks and Trust Companies		$ 508,125.07
Bonds and Stocks—Canadian Insurance Department Valuation		5,991,016.00
Interest Accrued		33,415.00
Balances Payable by Agents		551,006.08
Balances Payable by Reinsurers		179,018.52
Real Estate for use by Company		159,671.00
		$7,422,251.67

LIABILITIES—Offsetting		
Reserve for Taxes		$ 63,074.32
Reserve for Expenses due and accrued		17,570.85
Reserve for Contingent Commissions to Agents		40,000.00
Payable for Dividend declared for Shareholders		80,000.00
Reserve for Risks in Force— Canadian Insurance Department Standard		1,894,965.49
Reserve for Losses under adjustment		1,289,121.90
Funds of Reinsurers, held under agreements		387,228.55
Reserve for Non-Registered Reinsurance		278,457.74
Reserve for possible depreciation of Bonds, Stocks, etc.		100,000.00
CAPITAL (Fully Paid)	$2,000,000.00	
SURPLUS	1,271,832.82	
		3,271,832.82
		$7,422,251.67

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HON. F. B. McCURDY, P.C., President.
H. R. SILVER, Vice-President.
J. C. MacDOUGALL, M.D.
J. H. WINFIELD
JOHN A. WALKER, K.C.
J. R. MACLEOD
F. C. MANNING
A. G. CROSS
J. W. GODFREY, K.C.

General Manager—FRANK E. WRONG

Dollar Move Desirable If U.S. Prices Fall?

(*Continued from Page* 30)

veys the world currency situation from this point of view. It suggests four criteria for assessing whether any particular currency should be marked down: (1) comparative prices at home and abroad, (2) the state of trade, including the progress made in postwar recovery, (3) the grip of inflation on the economic and fiscal system, and (4) the reserves of gold and other usable foreign money.

The *Review* concludes: "Judged by the standards discussed above, Canada's position is relatively favorable. On a comparative basis, the Canadian dollar appears to be one of the strong currencies." In other words, if we marked our dollar down just at present it would move us out of line, rather than into line, with most other currencies. Nevertheless, some day we may need to do it.

Booms and Slumps

The second principle on which we might want to base some future move in our dollar is price movements abroad, particularly booms or slumps in the United States. We have already made one move on this basis—the return of our dollar up to par in July 1946. (That was before we joined the Fund.) As the first article in this group pointed out, this move was hailed as wise or inevitable or both in practically all parts of the country. We may want to make moves of that sort again.

The most likely situation calling for a fall—or at least for consideration of a fall—in the value of our dollar is a plunge in U.S. prices. If and when that day comes we shall want to think the situation over very carefully.

A plunge in U.S. prices will, of course, bring prices in many other countries down at the same time. We shall be faced by falling prices in most if not all our export markets. With the value of our exports falling we shall be faced by a shortage of gold and U.S. dollars to pay for our imports and to meet our debt-service abroad. Our reserves would run down. If the history of the depression of the 1930's and earlier slumps repeats itself, we shall find our export industries very hard hit, and "going through the wringer". People will lose their jobs. The demand for manufactures will fall, and the depression will spread through the whole country.

This sort of development *may*, under favorable conditions, be held in check by writing down our dollar. If we make this move our exporters will find that their sales abroad, when converted back into our dollars, will bring more than they otherwise would; their incomes and their power to give jobs are kept up. At the same time our lowered dollar makes imports more expensive; home production gets a type of "protection"; we cut down what we buy abroad and our trade is brought into better balance; the drain on our reserves is checked. In face of falling prices abroad, exchange depreciation seems to do all the right things.

But there are two dangers in the situation. First, in the "buyers' market" that would exist abroad, our exporters may be so anxious to sell that they will cut prices and throw away any advantage that they might get from the lower dollar. This position is no better. Further, the country's position is very much worse. For instance, if newsprint is selling at $50 per ton in New York, and we put up the price of U.S. dollars from $1.00 to $1.20, our newsprint exports get $60 per ton in Canadian funds. But if they then, competing with each other, lower their prices in New York to around $40 per ton they will still get around $50 per ton when they bring their money home; but the country as a whole will be getting from each ton of Canadian newsprint only $40 in U.S. funds with which to buy imports, service debts, and so forth.

This danger is aggravated by a second: the danger of competitive exchange depreciations and price-cuttings between different countries—such as Canada and Sweden competing to sell forest products in the United States and elsewhere. This went on in the 1930's. The whole situation must be looked over, commodity by commodity, before a move in our dollar is made. Luckily the Monetary Fund now gives us some protection, although by no means full protection, against competitive depreciations. Moreover, the fact that so much international trade is nowadays under bulk purchasing and selling agreements may mean that the worst excesses of competitive price-cutting will be avoided in the future.

Other international dealings must be taken into account when planning a move in our dollar. Amongst the more important are capital movements. It is almost impossible to theorize about how exchange rate movements will affect capital; in different situations, at home and abroad, the same change in the rate may have quite different results. All that can be said is that the matter should not be ignored. (When our dollar was moved in July 1946, Ottawa did not entirely ignore the effect on capital but, to judge from public statements, they did not pay it all the attention it deserved.)

Gold "Counter-Weight"

Gold, as always, holds a special position. Here is one commodity where, as long as countries agree to use it as a basis of international dealings, there is an unlimited market and no danger of price-cutting. Gold has always been a sort of counter-weight in our trade and production; when most industries are soaring up in the boom elevator, the counter weight is going down under the pressure of higher costs of production. But when the elevator starts down then, slowly but surely, gold starts up; this time costs of gold production are falling.

This is what has happened in the past, and obviously it is what we want to happen in the future. When the country is very prosperous, when we can sell our forest and farm products abroad at very good prices, some switch towards these exports and away from gold is a good thing. But when prices abroad plunge downward, when we almost have to give our exports away or sell them below what it really costs to produce them, then is the time to switch back to gold. Then every ounce of gold we dig out of the ground (and the supply, while great, is limited) will buy us more imports than a little while earlier when prices abroad were so high. Then is the time for our governments, federal and provincial, to listen very carefully to appeals for help from the gold mining industry. In economics, as apart from politics, there is no justification for either Mr. Abbott or Mr. Drew to be giving special help to gold production just now. The proper time for that will come later.

The torch-holder to be used by 1,500 runners to carry the Olympic Flame from Olympia, in southern Greece, to Wembley, Eng., where this summer's Games will be held, was displayed in London recently.

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GUARDING THE CANADIAN HOME

From *The Printed Word*

FEW people realize that, in adddition to providing them with valuable information about the discovery of prehistoric remains in France, the C.B.C. protects its listeners by a ceaseless vigil against assaults on their moral well-being. Mr. Davidson Dunton, chairman of the Board of Governors, has given an example of how this system works. He explained:

"We probably are a little more uneasy about divorce than the Americans . . . Sometimes, in the entanglement of the soap opera characters, our Commercial Department can see a situation is building up that isn't going to offer a solution compatible with our standards. They communicate with the producers, with the result that frequently changes are made in time."

It is not difficult to imagine such a situation.

For weeks, George's Brother's Other Wife has been taking repeated bops over the head, administered by George's Brother with the baby's feeding bottle. From time to time, the cad will vary this by wrapping one or two phonograph records around her neck. Obviously, there is but one way out for George's Brother's Other Wife. If ever a situation shrieked for Reno, this is it.

Grimly the Commercial Department follows the drama. Will he smash the Tschaikowsky Sixth over her head, or won't he? More important still, will George's Brother's Other Wife ever wise up to the fact that George's brother is an out-and-out rotter? If so, will she be able to do anything about it which is compatible with C.B.C. standards?

There comes a day. An anguished voice, despair oozing from every syllable, cries out: "Stop it, Horace, stop it! I can stand no more. I'm going to see my . . ."

Click! The offending words never cross the border. Canadian womanhood has been protected.

Next day, the program goes on. A somewhat confused Canadian audience learns that poor old George's Brother was by no means the bounder he appeared to be, but simply a combat veteran, suffering from delayed battle exhaustion. All George's Brother's Other Wife's finest womanly qualities are aroused. Tenderly she nurses him through his private Hell, smiling understandingly at his little whims and tantrums. She even goes and buys him the Tschaikowsky Fifth—there are more records in it.

Meanwhile, south of the border, George's Brother's Other Wife goes to R—o for a d——e. She collects a nice chunk of a——y. And everyone is happy. Except the Canadian housewife, who feels that the story she heard sounds just a trifle phoney.

But then, her innocence has been guarded, so what has she got to lose?

CARL W. BURROWS

Mr. Burrows, for the second consecutive year, led the entire field force of Occidental Life in production of Life Insurance during 1947. He also repeated a previous accomplishment by paying for over One Million Dollars of new business in each of the past two years. Mr. Burrows is associated with the Val Taylor Agency at Kitchener, Ontario. *

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Our agents represent
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Agencies and provincial management offices
from coast to coast and in Newfoundland

MORE PEACE OF MIND FOR MORE THAN One Million POLICYOWNERS

TWO EVERY MINUTE...every time the clock ticked off a minute of the business day in 1947, two more persons became insured in Occidental Life—a growth of more than a quarter of a million policyowners in just one year. At the close of 1947, a total of 1,160,114 persons were protected by some form of personal insurance in Occidental Life ...direct endorsement of the company's pledge of "*more peace of mind per premium dollar.*"

LIFE INSURANCE IN FORCE, December 31, 1947 .... $1,577,498,876
Increase over 1946 — 29.4%
NEW ORDINARY LIFE INSURANCE SOLD IN 1947 .... $ 248,888,062
Increase over 1946 — 17.1%
NEW GROUP LIFE INSURANCE SOLD IN 1947 .... $ 105,568,123
Increase over 1946 — 94.8%
ACCIDENT & SICKNESS PREMIUM INCOME .... $ 7,453,080
Increase over 1946 — 52.9%

ASSETS: Increased to $185,131,711.91
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS: Increased to . . . . . $ 13,196,902.68
1947 PAYMENTS to policyowners and beneficiaries . . . . . $ 17,588,164.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS to policyowners and beneficiaries since organization . $151,466,238.00

One of the 25 Largest
Among more than 450 life insurance companies in North America at the end of 1947, Occidental ranked 21st, measured by its more than a billion and a half dollars of life insurance in force.

Occidental Life
Canadian Head Office: LONDON, CANADA
W. Lockwood Miller, General Manager

Company Reports

Halifax Insurance

IN its 139th annual balance sheet, Canada's oldest insurance company, the Halifax Insurance Company, makes plain the exceptionally strong financial position it occupies in relation to the volume of business transacted. As at Jan. 1, 1948, the surplus as regards policyholders was $3,271,833, while the reserve for risks in force, calculated on the Dominion Insurance Department standard was $1,894,965. As at Jan. 1, 1947, the policyholders' surplus was $3,484,702 and the reserve for risks in force, $2,008,614. Total assets at the end of 1947 were $7,422,252, compared with $7,593,567 a year ago. Total liabilities except capital amounted to $4,150,419, compared with $4,108,865 at the end of the previous year. Net surplus over capital, reinsurance reserve, reserve for taxes, reserve for expenses due and accrued, reserve for losses under adjustment, reserve for possible depreciation of bonds, stocks, etc., and all liabilities was $1,271,833, compared with $1,484,702 at the end of the previous year.

J. S. Mitchell & Co.

SHARPLY increased earnings are shown in the annual report of J. S. Mitchell & Co., Limited, for the year ended December 31, 1947. John C. Newman, president, states that the volume of business in 1947 was considerably larger than in the preceding year, notwithstanding the large number of articles that were in short supply.

The 1947 profit, before deducting income and excess profits taxes, were $498,830 compared with $337,847 for 1946, an increase of $161,083 or nearly 50 per cent. Income taxes totalled $249,245 against $187,477. After deducting these taxes the net profit amounted to $249,685 or $16.64 per share on 15,000 shares, against 1946 net of $150,370 or $10.02 per share.

A dividend of $2.50 a share was paid March 1, after which the stock was placed on a quarterly instead of an annual dividend basis, and dividends of 75 cents quarterly were declared for the final three quarters of 1947. After allowing for these dividends, earned surplus stands at $881,843 against $700,112 last year. The balance sheet as at the close of 1947 shows current assets of $1,713,425 and current liabilities of $728,781, indicating net working capital of $984,644 against $850,327 at the close of 1946.

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experienced in solo and ensemble playing, to teach at Eastern Canadian Conservatory of Music. Send all qualifications.

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Southern Canada Power

GROSS earnings of Southern Canada Power Co. Ltd. for the five months ended Feb. 29, 1948, amounted to $1,871,045, compared with $1,760,273. Operating maintenance expenses, however, were up $228,006 to $889,662 and interest, depreciation and dividends $34,343 higher at $678,712. Taxes were $63,724 lower at $323,017. There was a deficit for the period of $20,346, while for the first five months of the 1946-47 fiscal year a surplus of $67,507 was shown. Gross earnings for the month of February amounted to $370,402, compared with $358,084 but there was a deficit of $5,263 against a surplus of $15,026 a year ago.

Eastern Steel Products

THE annual report of Eastern Steel Products Ltd., for the fiscal year ended November 30, 1947, shows healthy improvement in operating results over the preceding fiscal year, with sales at a record level.

Operating profit for the year at $709,637 compared with $440,814 the year before and, after charges including depreciation of $62,028 up from $52,281 and taxes of $276,000 up from $178,500, net earnings amounted to $327,457 as compared with $236,136 in preceding year. Surplus carried forward, after dividends and adjustment, totalled $924,421 as against $770,850.

Current assets stood at $2,468,266 at November 30, 1947, compared with $2,183,538 a year ago and current liabilities $866,676 up from $692,728, leaving net working capital of $1,601,590 as compared to $1,490,810. The funded debt is slightly higher at $1,680,000 compared to $1,460,000.

Substantial expenditures were made during 1947 for the purchase of additional class "A" and class B shares of W. D. Beath & Son Ltd., and for the purchase of new capital equipment. Under the provisions of the trust deed securing the company's debentures, $260,000 series B debentures were sold at a favorable price during the year.

Modern Containers

NEW all-time peaks in both operating profits and net income were established by Modern Containers, Ltd., in 1947. Operating profits rose from $394,647 in 1946 to $395,726 for 1947. Net income was substantially higher at $188,866, equal to $3.78 per share class "A" and to $2.78 per share common after providing for a full year's "A" preference dividends. For the year 1946 net amounted to $162,574 or $3.25 per share class "A" and $2.25 per share common. Net working capital at the end of 1947 amounted to $674,454 as compared with $513,030 one year earlier. During the year $66,921 was expended in plant expansion.

In his report to shareholders, E. Roy Butler, president, states that consideration of dividends on the common shares has been deferred by the directors pending reduction of debenture debt and development of company's expansion program.

Laprairie Co.

THE annual report of the Laprairie Co., Inc., for the year ended December 31, 1947, shows substantial improvement in net profit over preceding year at $104,817, equal to $13.97 a share on 6 per cent preferred, compared with $50,170, or $6.69 a share of preferred. After allowing for one year's preferred dividend requirements, earnings on the common amounted to $1.19 per share, compared with 10 cents in the preceding year.

Total income amounted to $292,336, compared with $168,125. Depreciation and depletion charges totalled $93,994 against $76,736 and tax provision $84,663 compared with $31,907.

The balance sheet shows working capital strengthened at $302,216 as compared with $280,842 in 1946. Cash was higher at $146,211; accounts receivable amounted to $156,219, while inventories aggregated $121,502 against $82,829. First mortgage serial bonds outstanding totalled $220,000 at the year-end, down from the preceding year's $235,000.

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Canadian Homes

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Vigorous, hardy bushes that will bloom constantly from early Summer to late Fall. There is a wealth of home beautifying and gardening help in the New FREE 1948 Catalogue. Big values in Shrubs, Perennials, Shade Trees, Hedges, Fruits, Berry Bushes, etc. . . . all developed especially for the rigors of the Canadian Climate on our Nurseries of over 150 acres. Write for your FREE copy of this 60-PAGE CATALOGUE TODAY!

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Hardy Plants for Canadian Homes - 1948

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The Chronotherm automatically reduces room temperature after you retire, and restores it before you rise in the morning. Fuel is saved all night long.

The Chronotherm can be used with any kind of controlled heating, any type of fuel, and any make of controls. The neat electric clock blends smoothly with any decorating scheme. You will find the Chronotherm will be one of the best investments you have ever made . . . paying you dividends in comfort and fuel-savings. See the new Honeywell Chronotherm at your local automatic heating company. 4

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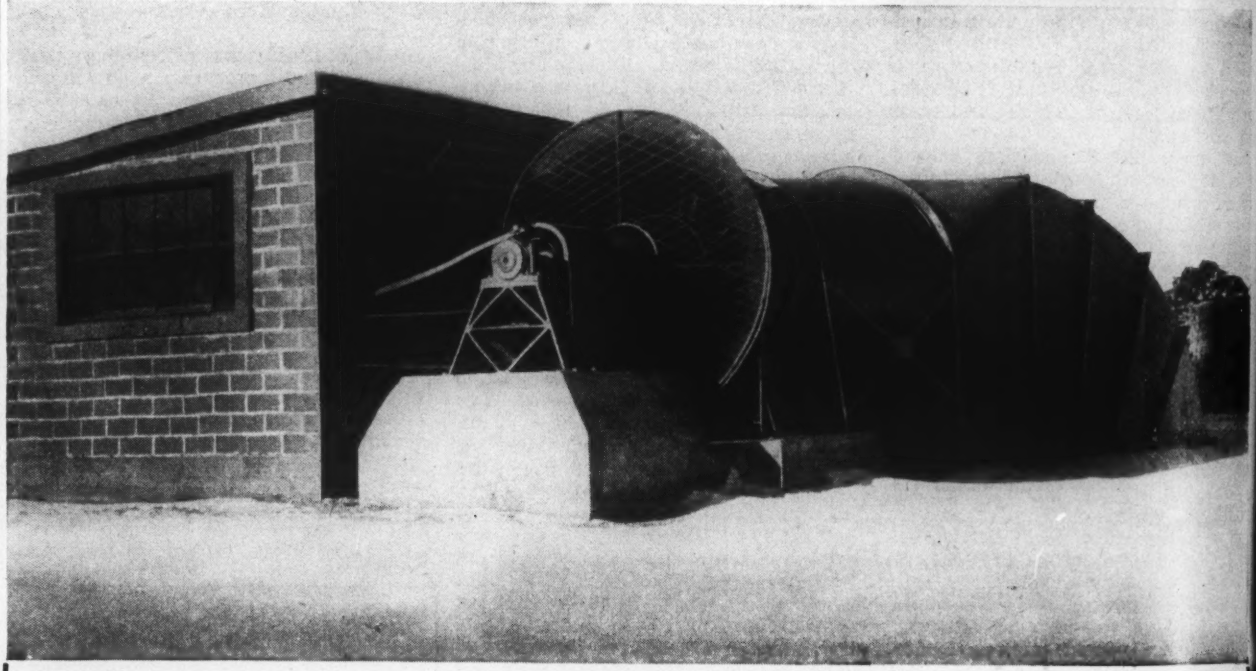

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In many of the great mines of Canada these powerful and efficient "Canadian Buffalo" Fans are, at this moment, the definite and successful answer to the major problem of ventilation, dust and gas control.

Similarly, a "Canadian Buffalo" Axial Flow Fan may be the answer to your ventilation or air transfer problem.

In addition to the Fan illustrated, there are both larger and smaller "Canadian Buffalo" Axial flow fans for the various mining installations.

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